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THE EUROPEAN TIMES

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EUROPEAN ARTS
Weekend Times Page 18

THE UNIVERSITY OF JORDAN SERIALS DIVISION

Computers hit by Michelangelo's birthday bug



Warning that flashed on American computers

BY NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 120 computers and eight companies in Britain suffered damage yesterday as the dreaded Michelangelo computer virus triggered panic around the world.

In Uruguay, newspapers reported that the virus wiped out counterintelligence information on the army's computers. In Japan an architectural firm lost £17,000 worth of clients' drawings. In South Africa 1,000 computers in 500 firms, mostly pharmacists', were struck by the rogue code. There were three unconfirmed cases in the new republic of Slovenia. Sporadic reports of the virus also emerged from Egypt and the United States.

In one incident staff at a company, believed to be based in Purley, Surrey, arrived at work to find the electronic virus, one of the most alarming viruses to date, had destroyed sensitive data on 100 personal computers. The attack, which would have cost the firm several thousand pounds in lost information and computer time, was described by Edward Wilding, editor of the authoritative *Virus Bulletin*, as "the single worst incident I have ever heard of in this country".

The company, which asked not to be named, had purchased one of the many commercially available scanning programmes designed to pin point "infections". The scanning programme was out of date and could not monitor for Michelangelo, a computer virus primed to strike on the 517th anniversary of the Renaissance master for whom it is named. "It illustrates the vital importance of updating this kind of software on a regular basis," Mr Wilding said. Other attacks were reported in the north of England with one company losing all its computer-based data.

Det Constable Chris Pierce, of the computer crime unit at New Scotland Yard, said hundreds of calls had poured in from worried computer users across the country. Det Insp John Austen, head of the unit, said: "The impact has been more severe than we thought." The Yard's advance warning about the virus, enabling computer users to detect it and "disinfect" their systems, had saved millions of pounds in Britain, Mr Austen said. "I do not believe it is sinister in terms of organised crime. These are people who work alone, with some sort of hang-up. We have been able to stop the crime to a large extent by publicity."

The unit, one of the key international centres set up to tackle computer crime, received reports of Michelangelo attacks across the world. *The Oakland Tribune*, a newspaper in California, was hit early because the Michalanglo virus had been triggered prematurely after becoming attached to Stoned, another rogue code, which was hiding in the paper's machines.

Last night, police in The Netherlands claimed they had pinpointed the cause of the infection to a single software copying house in Taiwan, which is one of the world's biggest mass producers of software.

The Michelangelo incident highlights increasing concern over the impact of computer viruses. Written, often by publicity-seeking or bored teenagers, the rogue codes penetrate computer systems when people unwittingly insert a floppy disc carrying the virus into their machines. Their ability to infect globally in a matter of months reflects modern society's enthusiasm to share information through the exchange of floppies.

TODAY IN THE TIMES

AGONY AND ECSTASY



Evoking the magic of Five Nations rugby
Pages 34 and 36 Weekend Times Page 1

REMBRANDT EXPLORED



An exhibition of the old master has become a broadside in a scholarly battle
Weekend Times Page 18

WEIGHTY QUESTIONS



Sir Robin Day is Clement Freud's breakfast guest
Saturday Review Page 16

£1bn a year for sport and arts

Treasury to win Baker's lottery

BY SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Treasury will impose a tax of up to 37.5 per cent on the national lottery announced by Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, yesterday.

The lottery, which is expected to raise £1 billion a year for sport, the arts and charity, would bring in hundreds of millions of pounds to the Exchequer if the public spent £3 billion on tickets, as predicted.

The stakes are expected to be £1 each and the jackpot is likely to be £1.5 million, but it is not clear how often that prize would be offered. Although the lottery, which was announced in later editions of *The Times* yesterday, was warmly welcomed by Tory backbenchers, the proposal alarmed both pools promoters and charities which feared it would drain their income.

Mr Baker's white paper, *A national lottery raising money for good causes*, leaves many questions unanswered, but 33p from each ticket is expected to go towards "good causes", with 15p spent on administration and the rest divided between prize money and tax. On that basis, the Treasury could take more of the proceeds than is given to charities and the arts.

After Mr Baker made his Commons statement, the Treasury said: "It is established policy to tax all forms of gambling. After the government has consulted on the white paper, the Treasury will announce how much the tax will be." It is expected to be between 15 and 37.5 per cent.

The white paper argues that any spending on the lottery would be diverted from other taxable activities, such as existing forms of gambling, so the government would lose revenue if the stakes were not taxed. The document also states that the proceeds will not be used to substitute existing public expenditure.

The Tories want to launch the lottery, which has the backing of Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, and Tim Renton, the arts minister, in 1994. It would be run by an independent board. Mr Renton told the Commons that its proceeds could be used to buy important works of art which would otherwise be lost to Britain.

Mr Baker dismissed Labour and Liberal Democrat claims that his announcement was an election ploy, or that it sanctioned "nationalised gambling" and would kill off the pools industry, pushing thousands of people out of work. He insisted that it was a popular and unique opportunity to improve the quality of national life and said the details of the scheme had not yet been settled.

The home secretary promised to consult charities about the scheme and said that the pools companies might be asked to help administer it. He also suggested that restrictions on football pools advertising might be relaxed to ensure fair competition with the lottery.

The pools promoters, who were furious that they had not been told about the scheme until only an hour before Mr Baker's announcement, are expected to demand that a tax of at least 37.5 per cent should be set. That is the level of betting duty they have to pay and it netted the Treasury £304 million last year.

Ivan Lawrence, the Conservative MP who tried in vain to introduce a private member's bill for a lottery in January, said he estimated that up to £600 million a year would go to the Treasury if the tax was set at 25 per cent. His calculations assumed that £1 billion a year would be given in prize money; £1 billion would go towards good causes; and £1 billion would be spent on tax and administration.

"It would be nice if the taxman said he did not want money out of it, but I think he is likely to," he said.

Five-year fight, page 2
Leading article, page 13

ADRIAN BROOKS


Cash dispenser: Kenneth Baker, home secretary, announcing details of the national lottery yesterday. If re-elected, the Tories hope to launch it in 1994

US to get cut-price Russian research

BY NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

THE United States has bought millions of dollars worth of fusion research for just $90,000 (£52,000) — by employing more than a hundred Russian scientists to continue working at the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow and supplying their results to the United States.

"It's fantastic value," a spokesman from the US Department of Energy said of the deal. "We can't pass this kind of thing up." He said that the money, which is expected to last for a year at the currently favourable rate of exchange, was designed as a "modest aid" to keep the highly regarded Russian fusion teams working.

For many years there has been a free exchange of information on fusion research, the attempt to use the combination of light elements that happens in the stars and in the hydrogen bomb as a source of controllable power. But this is the first time that money from abroad has been given to Russian scientists to support their programme.

The work they will do will be conducted on a tokamak, a doughnut-shaped fusion reactor of the type that was originally designed by Soviet scientists and now believed to be the likeliest model for a practical fusion power station.

The contract will be managed by General Atomics, a private firm in San Diego,

Continued on page 16, col 1

INSIDE

Sweet music for Branson

Richard Branson, the chairman of Virgin Group, has sold the music business to Thorn EMI for £560 million.

Mr Branson, whose personal stake in the business is worth around £380 million, has been retained as life-president, by Thorn EMI..... **Page 16**

Thorn EMI deal, page 17
Flying cavalier, page 17
Tempus, page 20

Zoo survives

Only a year after animals faced the threat of death as officials juggled with a £2 million annual deficit, London Zoo has been saved and will break even this year..... **Page 3**

New script

Tony Snow, the head of President Bush's speechwriting staff, was shunted sideways yesterday to make room for the return of former Reagan and Bush speechwriter, Peggy Noonan..... **Page 10**

Leader quits

President Mutalibov of Azerbaijan, a career communist who survived the collapse of the Soviet Union, resigned yesterday..... **Page 9**

Sleeping out

England World Cup cricketers moved out of their official hotel yesterday because the beds were not big enough..... **Page 36**

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Argentina to fight on for the Falklands

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN BUENOS AIRES

TEN years after the Falklands conflict, President Menem of Argentina said in a *Times* interview that he intended to pursue every possible route to get sovereignty of the islands which Argentina calls the Malvinas.

"We never want a war, never again. But we will now persist to get our sovereignty by going to every international forum which will take up the subject, a subject which has already led to one war, a war which should never be repeated," he said. "I have no doubt that in this way Argentina will in the end get its rightful sovereignty over those islands," he added.

Señor Menem said his government would pursue its claim through the Organisation of American States and the United Nations.

Menem interview, page 10

Princess criticises lawyers

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE Princess Royal criticises arrogant lawyers today for dismissing public anxiety about the legal profession and the criminal justice system. In characteristically forthright comments in the Saturday Review section of *The Times*, she questions the isolation of the profession. She says that changes in prison conditions should be accompanied by reform of the legal system.

"My experience has led me to ask serious questions about laws in general, and how the legal profession has created its mystique, its ivory tower syndrome in which it appears to be busily cementing up the holes," the Princess says.

Regal aid, Saturday Review, page 4

Police check deals of murdered accountant

BY RONALD FAUX

DETECTIVES investigating the murder of an accountant are enquiring into his international business dealings. David Wilson, aged 47, was taken to the garage behind his home in Brinscall, Lancashire, on Thursday night by two masked men and shot twice in the head.

The gunmen had burst into Mr Wilson's home, a detached villa in Twist Moor Lane on the outskirts of the village, and overpowered his daughter Michelle, aged 26. They waited for two hours for Mr Wilson, his wife Barbara, their second daughter Lisa, aged 24, and her boy friend to arrive home at 11pm.

They were overpowered by the raiders and threatened with firearms. Mrs Wilson, her daughters and the family friend, whose name was not released by police, were bound hand and foot with tape. The men said they wanted to talk to Mr Wilson and led him outside. The family heard the sound of shots but did not realise what had happened until much later.

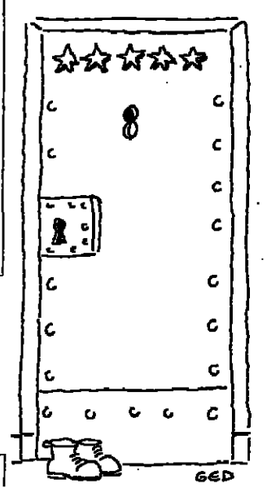
After freeing themselves they found that the telephone wires had been cut. They drove to a neighbour's house to call the police and it was on returning that they found Mr Wilson's body in the garage. His killers made no demands and nothing from the house was stolen which led police to look for other motives.

Police refused to comment last night on speculation that Mr Wilson had been involved in the investigation of the disappearance of a ship with a cargo of cigarettes which

Continued on page 16, col 8

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The inside story on a five-star supergrass



BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

QUIET nights, cigarettes, games, room service, fresh laundry and a television set are the least a criminal can expect while helping the police with their enquiries. The life of a supergrass may be dangerous but it is not without its creature comforts, according to new Home Office guidelines sent to every force in the country about accommodation and handling of "resident informers".

The artistic criminal can set up his canvas and easel, courtesy of police funds, and the athlete might get a brisk country walk handcuffed to a willing officer. Musical criminals will be allowed up to 25 LPs, CDs, tapes or EPs plus player and a radio — providing it does not include short wave used by the police themselves.

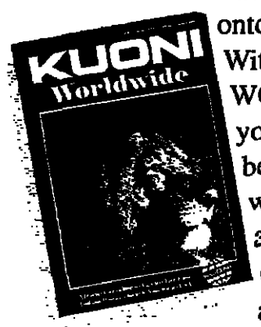
While the aim is that informants do not get any better treatment than they might expect in prison, the reality is that they will live better than many prison inmates. Police funds can be spent on the little extras they might like and they are supplied with up to 125 cigarettes a week. The guidelines cover convicted prisoners who become long-term informants, defendants awaiting trial who agree to help the police and criminals released briefly from prison to help a police investigation. The crimes involved must carry minimum sentences of ten years imprisonment.

In the 1970s and 1980s Scotland Yard and regional crime squads made considerable use of supergrasses such as Bertie Smalls, who named 30 associates and admitted to 15 robberies, to break gangs of armed robbers. The system drew criticism because the police were accused of underplaying the roles of some of their informants in the desire to get other target criminals. In 1987 Nikolas Chrastney, waiting trial as one of the organisers of the biggest cocaine consignment smuggled into Britain, escaped from a Yorkshire police station where he was supposed to be helping Customs investigators. He has not been seen since.

The guidelines, heavily influenced by the Chrastny case, insist that the informant, who could be a category A prisoner holding top-level security status, must be held in a special suite away from other cells and protected by three officers on a 24-hour basis. The officers must be uniformed and not detectives handling the case. Prisoners on remand can have 15-minute visits each day from family and friends. If the informant is convicted, he can be visited only with the agreement of the prison service. No conjugal visits are allowed — and neither is alcohol, unless on medical grounds.

Barbados..!

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Victory nears in relentless five-year fight for national lottery

Glad news for the pro-lottery lobby leaves the pools promoters deep in gloom. **Simon Tait** and **John Goodbody** report

FOR some, the home secretary's announcement of a white paper on a national lottery was the climax of a long battle. For others, it was only the start.

A year ago the Lottery Promotion Company had expected the lottery to be in the Budget; it was not, and the pools companies, principal foes of the idea, appeared to have outflanked the pro-lottery lobby.

Denis Vaughan, the company's executive secretary, has conducted a relentless campaign for the past five years. "The home secretary's announcement is a wonderful vindication," he said.

Mr Vaughan, an orchestral conductor, had been inspired by Australia's building of the Sydney Opera House entirely from lottery proceeds, and saw a British lottery as a way of providing the arts in Britain with capital projects, while supporting sport and the heritage environment.

Privately, politicians on both sides admitted support but Margaret Thatcher was implacably opposed. The breakthrough came with her resignation as prime minister in November 1990. From then on, despite the failure of two private members' bills, the bandwagon seemed unstoppable. Last year, Germany had a £3.6 billion turnover from lotteries, Spain £4.1 billion, France £2.2 billion and the United States about £13 billion. Britain is the only European country without a lottery — even Albania has one now — but there is still strong opposition here from the Methodist Church, the Union of Shop Distributive and Allied Workers, the Lotteries Council, which represents charity fund-raisers, and the Betting Office Licensees Association, which serves the off-course betting industry.

The pools companies said the lottery would lead to redundancies among the 6,000 full-time and 72,000 part-time pools employees, and the Pool Promoters Association said the belief that the lottery would create up to 40,000 new jobs was unrealistic: Germany's principal lottery employs only 200. If the pools declined, the pools lobby says, the impact on the national game would be severe unless the lottery made up the shortfall. Football receives £40 million a year from pools related sources; £20 million for ground improvements from the 1990 reduction in the pools betting levy, £12 million from spot-the-ball donations and £8 million for the use of fixtures on pools coupons.

Peter Yarranton, chairman of the Sports Council, was jubilant: "We have already identified at least £4 billion of projects throughout the country involving new and upgraded swimming pools, sports centres, athletics tracks and artifical pitches," he said. The Central Council of Physical Recreation, which represents sport's national governing bodies, is cautious and wants the lottery operated by the Pool Promoters Association. Peter Lawson, the council's general secretary, said: "The first aim of sport must be to preserve the level of funding that it currently enjoys. No diminution of this level will be tolerated."

Kenneth Baker said that existing revenue subsidies would not be affected by the lottery, but the white paper is inconclusive on how the lottery would operate. There is likely to be a regulatory body, similar to Oftel, supervising a manager under franchise who would organise the mechanics of the lottery, and the disbursement of the charity funds would be overseen by a board of trustees, probably government-appointed.

Management would be open to tender. The pools companies will almost certainly make a bid, as might the Tote, Ladbrokes and other organisations familiar with large scale gambling operations. Private sector lottery experts from abroad, such as Tattersalls from Australia or G-Tech from the United States, might also bid.

The form of the lottery is likely to be "on-line" computer-based, with punters picking six from 49 numbers, and their choice being fed straight into the system. The alternative is an instant lottery in which the gambler simply buys a card and scratches its surface to find a number.

The initial investment to set the system up would be large, and the banker N M Rothschild and Sons visualises a City consortium of institutions such as the big insurance companies and banks making a powerful bid.

The allocation of the franchise might be done on the same basis as the Channel Three television bids, with competitors submitting sealed envelopes containing their resume of how they could run the lottery. There is a consultation period to July, and Anthony Everitt, the Arts Council's secretary general, said the council would be making proposals for the lottery's arts policy. "We believe that the proceeds of a lottery will provide much needed additional money to help to restore arts buildings and provide new arts facilities such as a dance house for London and a concert hall for the North-East," he said.

The council's chairman, Lord Palumbo, was an early suporter and the lottery could fund his £1 billion ambition to put the cultural fabric of the nation in best repair by the year 2000.

A year ago UK Charity Lotteries launched an instant lottery in greater London and claims to have sold 30 million tickets and raised £7.5 million for charities.

Frank Flannery, its managing director, believes the "scratch 'n' match" type of lottery he runs could exist beside the national giant. "We reckon that 70 per cent of the market would go for the jackpot lottery, leaving 30 per cent for our instant lottery out of £4 billion," he said.

	Population million	Total sales £	Sales per head £ weekly
Spain	39.5	4,141.0	2.01
Germany	64.1	3,601.0	1.08
France	56.6	2,244.0	0.76
Italy	56.0	1,574.0	0.54
Sweden	8.59	574.0	1.28
Austria	7.8	496.0	1.22
Finland	5.0	470.0	1.81
Belgium	9.4	435.0	0.089
USSR	273.0	403.4	0.03
Ireland	3.54	230.0	1.24

Source: The Lottery Promotion Company Ltd



Vaughan: "This is a wonderful vindication"

Lottery tax, page 1
Leading article, page 13

Lotto luck of the Irish eases fears

FEARS that a lottery in Britain would appeal overmuch to those on low incomes who can least afford it appear not to have been borne out by experience in Ireland, which has benefited from a thriving national Lotto since 1987 (Edward Gorman writes). An Post, the Lotto organiser and national postal service, says the game is enjoyed by people from all socio-economic backgrounds, by over 60 per cent of the entire adult population, and not predominantly by the poor.

Denis Kirwan, a spokesman for the lottery, pointed to the diversity of backgrounds from which winners had been drawn. The ten millionaires created were from a variety of backgrounds, and included a surgeon and individuals who were unemployed at the time of their win.

The lottery has generated over three quarters of a billion pounds in sales since it began, 50 per cent of which is paid in prizes, 16 per cent spent on administration and 6 per cent in commissions to agents. The remaining £245 million has been spent on sport, youth and recreation projects, health and welfare, arts and culture and the promotion of the Irish language. Lotto officials estimate tonight's winner could net up to £2 million.

Executive jailed for £260,000 swindle

A SHELL UK executive who swindled his employers out of £260,000 to help pay for a lavish secret homosexual lifestyle, was jailed for three years yesterday.

Michael Beach, aged 55, dined in expensive restaurants, stayed in top hotels and spent thousands of pounds travelling the world on holidays with a succession of male lovers, Southwark crown court, south London, was told. Beach, who earned £34,000 as head of Shell's creative services department, also spent £7,500 on a sports car for one of his friends and paid £2,000 for surgery on the man's nose.

Beach, married with two children, described as a committed Methodist who had done valuable charity work for scouting and the Prince's Trust, paid £1,100-a-month rent for a London residence. Sums of £525 and £1,550 were spent on two "rent boys", Stephen Smyth, for the prosecution, said.

Beach, of Reigate, Surrey, admitted nine charges of obtaining property by deception and one of conspiracy between January 1988 and December 1990. He asked for 18 other offences to be considered. He was said to have invented a design company and sent invoices to Shell UK for work that was never done.

The court was told that Beach confessed to police as he recovered in hospital from an attempted suicide after officers interviewed him over money he had paid to a lover.

Judge Butler, QC, told Beach, a Shell employee for 23 years, that a prison sentence was inevitable for his gross breach of trust. As he was led from the dock, Beach blew a kiss to his wife and daughter.

BT to make further 25,000 staff redundant

By David Young

BT, which recently reported profits of £95 a second, announced yesterday that it is to shed 25,000 jobs. During the next week BT will send letters to its 218,000 staff outlining the scope of the cuts, which it hopes will be on a voluntary basis.

The losses are in addition to a programme already under way to cut 15,000 staff and the 18,000 jobs BT shed up to March last year.

Michael Hepher, BT's group managing director, said: "In a tough and competitive economic and regulatory environment it is imperative to reap the benefits of a large investment programme by efficiency and giving our customers better value for money. We are determined to do this in a way that recognises the needs of our people and we remain committed to the principle of voluntary reductions."

BT has been reducing its workforce over the past two years since it rose to a peak of 240,000 after privatisation in 1986. The extra staff were needed to carry out a modernisation of the telephone network but with most work completed fewer staff are needed.

Tony Young, general secretary of the National Communications Union, said that it would fight any attempts to make the redundancies compulsory. "We are appalled at the suggested scale of job losses proposed for the coming year in BT," he said.

"The consequences for our members are serious. Given the rising unemployment figures throughout the country prospects elsewhere are bleak. BT must put its workforce, our members, in the picture. Morale is currently at rock bottom."

Gordon Brown, the shadow trade and industry secretary, said: "With the news today that 25,000 jobs are under threat at BT it is clear now that the total job losses announced or threatened so far in 1992 now amounts to the huge figure of 125,000. The jobs are being lost at as fast a rate as at any time during the recession, making it urgent that the Chancellor uses his Budget on Tuesday to tackle fast-rising unemployment."

The latest round of job cuts at BT comes five weeks after its announcement of big profits. It also emerged that Iain Vallance, BT chairman, received a 12.5 per cent pay rise, taking his salary to £450,000 last year, with talk of a possible £220,000 bonus.

The trimmed third-quarter profit of £759 million was in spite of a cut of 15,000 jobs last year, 5,000 more than planned. At the same time BT announced that it expected to lose another 10,000 jobs this year, bringing the total reduction in the workforce to 42,000 over three years.

The blame for a fall in profits and job losses was put on recession, the effects of regulation, and its public battles with Oftel, the telecommunications watchdog.

Judge says his local pub is a disgrace

By David Young

A JUDGE took to the witness box yesterday to oppose a licence renewal for a public house near to his home.

Charles Barton, QC, a recorder on the Western circuit, objected at Bristol's brewster sessions to the application by the Mall in Clifton on the grounds of obscenity, over-crowding, under-aged drinking, lack of control, general disorder and mayhem. He claimed that children, some as young as 15, swarmed to the pub near his Victorian town house, spilling out at closing time chanting, vomiting and smashing glasses.

A private detective Mr Barton had hired had been told by a barman that many regular customers were under age. "They're so young it's like Mothercare in here," the barman had said.

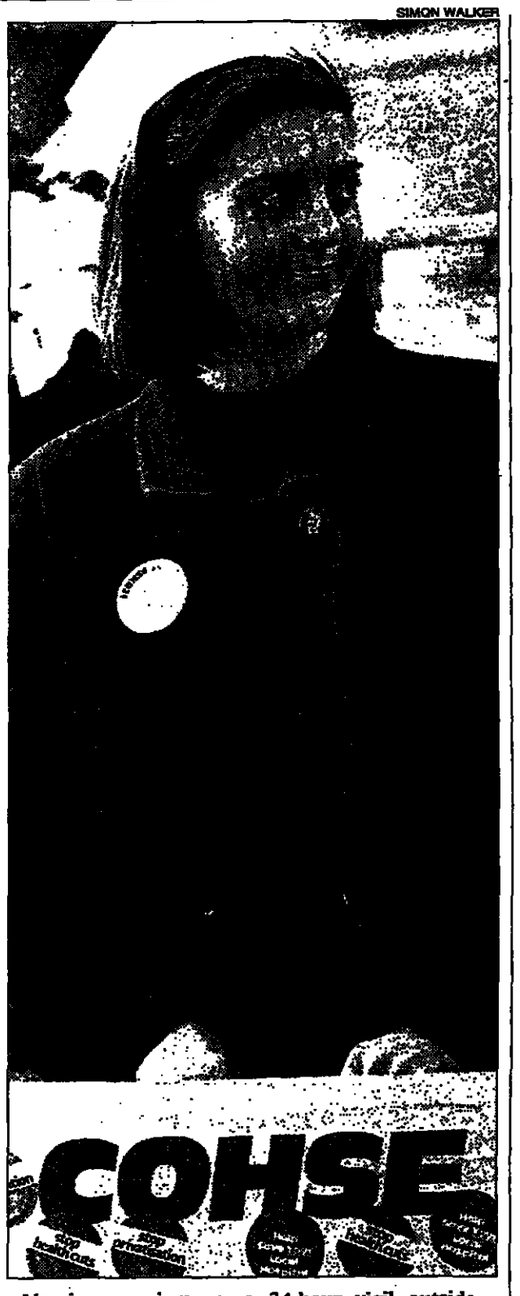
"I'm not a particularly sensitive flower, but I feel threatened and avoid the crowds," Mr Barton told the magistrates. "It's a regular occurrence having to make one's way through pools of urine and vomit and smashed glass. It's staring you in the face that many of the people there are under 18. The average age is 15 to 17. They pour onto the street through the rear fire doors with a taunting chanting noise."

Mr Barton told the licensing committee that he had kept a diary of the "insufferable incidents" at the pub since Giulio Fagnani had taken over as landlord in 1990. "It is frightening the way in which the pub has changed character. It is out of the question for people of my age group to use it."

He presented a 101-name petition objecting to the licence application and 33 protest letters. He also criticised the police for not opposing the application.

The hearing was adjourned to March 27.

SIMON WALKER



Nursing a grievance: a 24-hour vigil outside Lewisham hospital in southeast London yesterday was organised by Cohse to highlight the closure of a ward that the health service union said had been caused by the government's health reforms

Computer firm picks teenage directors

By John O'Leary
Education Correspondent

SEGA Europe, whose computer games took the British market by storm last year, has appointed a group of teenagers onto an advisory board to guide the company's marketing strategy.

The new directors, aged between 14 and 16, were the winners of a marketing competition which attracted entries from 150 schools. Pupils were challenged to provide a marketing strategy for Sega for 1992, including public relations, advertising and sales promotion.

Representatives of the six winning teams will meet Sega Europe's managing director, the company's marketing team, and their public relations and sales promotion agencies four times a year.

Sega says it is the first company to involve young consumers in its planning. Philip Lea, marketing director, said: "Encouraging children to actively participate in our marketing process has to be the ultimate way of ensuring that we remain one step ahead of the competition."

The scheme was suggested by Richard Branson, the head of Virgin, before he sold back his British distribution rights to Sega's Japanese parent company last summer.

A new game takes Sega's 800 research and development staff 18 months to develop, so the teenagers will not be involved in programming. But a number of the advertising and promotion proposals from the competition are already being taken up.

The winning teams, from Manchester, Norfolk, Durham, Essex, Staffordshire and Jersey, have received a selection of computer hardware and games, while the schools have been given colour television sets and equipment.

Clarke accepts defeat on inspection

The education secretary admitted defeat yesterday in his battle with Labour peers over control of the privatised school inspection service proposed in the Education (Schools) Bill (John O'Leary writes).

Kenneth Clarke said that the government would accept two defeats in the Lords to ensure that the parent's charter becomes law before the election. The Lords rejected the idea of allowing school governors to choose their own independent inspection teams and safeguarded local authorities' right to inspect schools they maintain.

Mr Clarke said that the appointment of inspectors was a "minor point". The government would redraft the amendments to make them fit into the new system of inspection.

Jack Straw, Labour's education spokesman, said: "For Mr Clarke to claim this issue of selection of inspectors by the governors is a m matter is absurd. Giving governors the right to pick, choose and pay their own inspectors was always at the heart of his misnamed parent's charter."

Ashdown case woman in court

A woman accused of dishonestly handling a document which gave details of an affair by Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, with a former secretary appeared before City of London magistrates yesterday.

Maria Watson, aged 41, from Brighton, East Sussex, was released on conditional bail for a fortnight. Her former husband, Simon Berkowitz, aged 45, who is jointly charged with handling stolen goods and faces a further charge of burglary, did not appear.

Tourists robbed

Four British tourists and a South African have been robbed by thieves armed with clubs and knives in a Kenyan game reserve, British officials said yesterday. A British High Commission spokesman in Nairobi said they were attacked before dawn on Thursday in Samburu game park. Nobody was seriously hurt in the latest in a series of attacks on tourists in the country.

Street fiesta

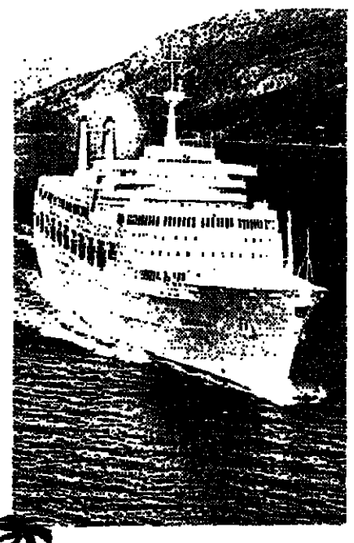
A nine-week festival of street theatre will launch Britain's £1 million arts programe at Expo '92, which opens next month in Seville. British Day, on May 21, will begin with a Mahler and Handel concert in Seville Cathedral by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra.

CORRECTION

Judge Cooke was not the first solicitor to be appointed to the circuit bench, as stated in the Court page (March 3). That distinction belongs to G J Black, A E Cox, J K E Slack, J R Warde and G G A Whitehead, who were all sworn in as circuit judges on February 18, 1977. Judge Cooke was appointed to the circuit bench in 1980.

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Christie's sues Sunflowers family

The auctioneer is locked in a £250,000 row over the £22.5m Van Gogh painting, writes **Sarah Jane Checkland**

CHRISTIE'S is locked in a dispute with the family on whose behalf they sold one of Van Gogh's *Sunflowers* pictures. The firm of auctioneers, which earned its biggest commission of £4.4 million from the £22.5 million sale of the painting in 1987, is suing the executors of Mrs Helen Chester Beatty for £250,000.

It claims this is for work connected with negotiations over a Cézanne painting, *Allée à Chantilly*, which was ceded to the nation in lieu of £3.4 million tax and is now in the National Portrait Gallery.

This week Lord Brooke, who is an executor with his mother Mrs Sarah Thomson-Jones and his sister Lady Charlotte Fraser, dismissed the claim by Christie's.

He said that he was "stunned at Christie's behaviour" and scorned the auctioneers' business methods.

"There was no invoice at the time, no letter, no conversation to indicate the estate was running up bills with Christie's," he said.

The invoice, he added, appeared only "when we decided to do some other business with Sotheby's. It appears they are suing for hurt feelings".

According to him, "over a period of almost four years annual accounts were prepared by chartered accountants and all dealings with Christie's were conducted by solicitors for the estate.

"The accounts show no liability to Christie's. The accountants received no invoice, the solicitors believed that the matter was simply part of the overall package that was negotiated to effect the sale of *Sunflowers*."

Anthony Stretfield, Christie's company lawyer, declined to comment.

The son of the late eighth Earl of Warwick, Lord Brooke, aged 35, was speaking from Western Australia, where he lives following the controversial sale of his family seat, Warwick Castle, to Madame Tussauds in 1978. At the time he was criticised by the heritage lobby for also selling four views of the castle by Canaletto.

From Christie's point of view the sale of *Sunflowers* did the art market a great favour, helping to initiate an unprecedented three-year boom. From the Chester Beatty heirs' point of view, when the auctioneer's premium, capital gains tax and inheritance tax had been paid they were left with only a fraction of the auction price. One estimate, never denied, was that they received as little as £3.4 million.

First came Christie's ten per cent commission: £2.25 million. Then came capital gains tax, due on the difference between the pre-sale valuation and the auction price. Because the painting had already been conditionally exempted from inheritance taxes at the time of Edith Chester Beatty's death in 1952, and because it went for far more than expected, the estate was taxed at a variable rate from 65 to 80 per cent. This left a residue of less than £4 million.

"Quite clearly people are going to receive very little when they sell paintings," Lord Brooke said.

"It is the intention of the Inland Revenue to take a very high percentage of people's estate." But at the time there seemed to be no alternative and he did not regret the sale.

The tale of *Sunflowers* could become a cautionary one for aristocrats queuing to sell their family treasures at what promises to be the auction of the decade at Christie's next month. The list of heritage items includes a major painting of *London by Canaletto* estimated at £3 million, a family portrait by Zoffany and an £8 million Rembrandt.

Significantly, when Lord Brooke decided to sell a further group of Post-Impressionist paintings from the Chester Beatty estate, he switched to Sotheby's. He says today that this happened "not as a result of any dispute or ill feeling towards Christie's, but simply because Sotheby's terms suited better".

London Zoo to remain open after breaking even

BY MICHAEL HORSNELL

LONDON Zoo has been saved from extinction only a year after animals faced the threat of death while officials juggled with a £2 million annual deficit. Sir John Chapple, who became president of the Zoological Society of London last month after retiring as Chief of the General Staff, announced yesterday that the gates of the world's oldest zoo would remain open.

A determined attempt to stay afloat has meant that the zoo will break even this financial year for the first time in memory, through a 35 per cent reduction in the staff payroll. That and management changes, which have included the departure of David Jones as the zoo's general manager and the appointment of a majority of new members to the society's council, has led the government to adopt a more sympathetic approach to Sir Stamford Raffles's 1826 creation in Regent's Park.

David Trippier, the environment minister, who has been critical of the society, said yesterday that a new rent-free lease would be discussed soon as well as plans to finance a programme of repair to listed zoo buildings. The £13 million repair backlog helped to precipitate the situation at the zoo and a government refusal to inject public funds even if that meant closure.

In the past year the Save Our Zoo campaign has raised more than £2 million and staff redundancies have saved £1.7 million. These financial improvements, with a high attendance figure of 1.2 million and the promise of £10 million in commercial sponsorship, mean that the zoo will soon announce a development plan for the next five years.

Mr Trippier, who will have further meetings with the newly appointed president and Peter Holwell, treasurer of the zoological society, welcomed the changes in the management structure and the financial turn-around.

Sir John said: "I am delighted that the government has expressed support for this unique organisation and I intend to ensure the society builds on this. I would like to express my appreciation both for the tremendous support that we have received from the public and also the fortitude and positive response of the staff to the challenges that have had to be faced recently."

Some 90 members of staff at Regent's Park and its sister site at Whipsnade, in Bedfordshire, which has also broken even, have been made redundant. About 15 per cent of the animal collection has been rehoused at other zoos, though most of those transferred were back-up stock not normally seen by the public.

A new director of London Zoo is expected to be appointed soon. Mr Jones, who combined responsibility for Whipsnade with Regent's Park in a post which has now been abolished, will work on the zoological society's overseas conservation projects. His departure, after a campaign against him by a group of the society's fellows, came at the end of a five-year dispute between proponents of a "theme park" future for the zoo and those insisting that it remain primarily a centre for conservation with projects such as captive breeding.

With the bitterness of the recent past now behind it, the zoo hopes that its two new pandas, Ming Ming from China and Boa Boa from Berlin, both still in quarantine, will mate next month, providing a big attraction if a baby panda is born. In the early spring sunshine yesterday, however, Ming Ming was too shy to show herself and Boa Boa was sound asleep on his stomach.

PETER LOMAS



Murder search: police examining the grounds of the house at Brinscall, Lancashire, where two masked gunmen killed David Wilson, an accountant, yesterday after they had overpowered and tied up members of his family. The killers wore surgical gloves, page 1

Irish rape victim had abortion on Tuesday

BY EDWARD GORMAN
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE 14-year-old rape victim at the centre of the Irish abortion case was reported yesterday to have had a termination at an English clinic on Tuesday.

The development came as Albert Reynolds, the Irish prime minister, continued to weigh his options in the light of the supreme court judgment on Thursday, allowing abortion in Ireland if a pregnant woman demonstrated suicidal tendencies.

In a speech to the Fianna Fáil women's committee in Dublin, Mr Reynolds said he would be holding further bilateral meetings with opposition party leaders to discuss the implications of the ruling. He said: "The government will also listen carefully to the various opinions that will be expressed before deciding on what if any further action is called for and what that action might be."

A government spokesman said Mr Reynolds had three options: he could do nothing, call another referendum or introduce new legislation to provide guidelines on the limited circumstances in which abortion should be permitted.

Political reaction to the supreme court ruling continued to be confused and contradictory, with activists on both sides calling for a new referendum on the issue. There was also doubt about whether legislation would be practicable.

Police hunt killer of commuter

BY PETER VICTOR

POLICE hunting a killer who raped a commuter and cut her throat have warned women to be on their guard because they fear he might strike again.

The woman, named yesterday as Manzula Amlani, aged 43, of Bagshot, Surrey, was stabbed repeatedly in the chest after she was attacked on a footpath near the town's railway station on Thursday night.

Mrs Amlani, who worked as an insurance clerk in Camberley, left the firm's offices at 6.20pm and went to Camberley station before catching a connecting train to Bagshot. She was attacked while walking the one mile to her home.

Her body was found 300 yards from the station in the middle of the footpath by a man going to catch a London-bound train. Police believe Mrs Amlani had been lying dead for less than an hour.

She was born in Kenya and has been resident in the United Kingdom for four or five years since divorcing her husband, who still lives in Kenya. She lived on her own but had relations living in Camberley. Members of her family own two chemist shops in Camberley and Sunninghill.

Det Supt Pat Crossan said: "Over the next few days it would be as well for women in the area to take some sort of precaution." Thirty officers have been assigned to the case and police were questioning commuters last night.

Maxwell pensions to be cut by 75%

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THOUSANDS of Maxwell company pensioners will have their pensions cut by up to three-quarters in June after Mirror Group Newspapers decided that it could no longer support them.

MGN's directors have announced that the company will not help to pay the pensions of 8,500 people in the Maxwell Communication works pension scheme who have never worked for the newspaper publisher. The scheme, like the other Maxwell pension funds, has been ravaged by the fraud masterminded by the late Robert Maxwell.

The decision means that the pensioners will be forced to rely on state benefit and the guaranteed minimum pension provided by the Department of Social Security, and the little that remains in the scheme.

The funds' liquidator has said that the funds have lost £458 million, almost two-thirds of their value, and most of this is irrecoverable. The newspaper group committed itself to support another 2,500 members of the scheme who are present or former MGN employees.

Trickster tortured art dealer

BY ROBIN STACEY

A CONFIDENCE trickster educated at Eton and Oxford who kidnapped and tortured an art dealer to try to force him to sign over his wealth was jailed for 12 years yesterday at the Central Criminal Court.

Sacheverell de Houghton, aged 52, of Trinity Green, east London, had earlier admitted kidnap, false imprisonment and blackmail.

The court was told that de Houghton posed as a potential purchaser of the home of John Gaze, aged 44, a Russian art expert with a salon in Piccadilly, London, to compile a detailed picture of his paintings and lifestyle.

After weeks of preparation, de Houghton and two accomplices kidnapped Mr Gaze in his London home, stripped him naked, forced drugs into his mouth, threatened him with an imitation firearm and beat him to try to make him co-operate with their scheme.

Mr Gaze eventually escaped after refusing to sign documents handing over his assets to de Houghton or sign prepared letters to friends written on his notepaper saying that he was going away.

Sheldon Davies, aged 28, of Stepney, east London, who was found guilty of kidnap, was jailed for three years. He was acquitted on charges alleging false imprisonment and blackmail.

Architect defends Mappa building

BY CRAIG SETON

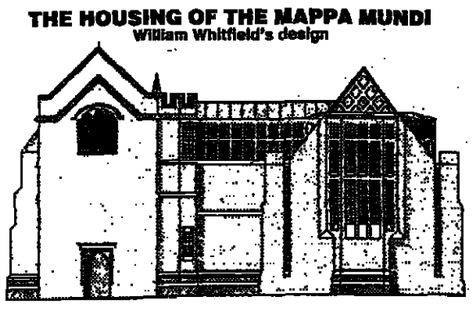
A LEADING architect has criticised the "flawed" decision of the Cathedrals Fabric Commission to reject his plans for a £1 million building to house Hereford cathedral's 13th century map of the world, the *Mappa Mundi*.

The rejection of the planned building, to be funded by a gift from John Paul Getty II, is believed to be the first important decision involving the cathedral site by the commission since it was established in 1990 to rule on cathedrals' plans for selling treasures or making significant architectural alterations. Hereford sees the rejection as a serious setback to hopes for a permanent home for the *Mappa Mundi*.

The work was at the centre of a controversy more than three years ago when it was offered for sale by the dean and chapter to raise money for the cathedral's restoration and to help to secure the future the medieval chained library. William Whitfield, the architect whose London firm was responsible for the new chapter house at St Albans cathedral, yesterday condemned the commission's decision. "I am accustomed to designing buildings in sensitive sitings and do it with great care," he said.

The new building containing the map was to be an addition to the Dean Leigh library in the cathedral's Palace Yard. The plans had been accepted by the dean and chapter and the Mappa Mundi Trust, created in 1989 to administer funds for the cathedral's preservation and restoration after the sale of the map had been called off. They believe that an appeal against the decision could be costly and want the commission to reconsider its ruling. The commission welcomed the general idea of the proposals but criticised the size and position of the new two-storey building.

THE HOUSING OF THE MAPPA MUNDI
William Whitfield's design



THE SUNDAY TIMES

Lights, Cameron, action!

Few members of the public know what he looks like but, in or out of the lights of Broadway, Cameron Mackintosh remains a reassuring figure in a bottle-green Marks & Spencer



v-neck and jeans. Is it true he has £200m? "Probably," he answers. "I've never bothered to count it and . . . look, I know I'm successful beyond my wildest dreams"

Cameron Mackintosh, profiled as his new production Moby Dick opens – in The Sunday Times tomorrow

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COMPANY	1st	2nd	3rd
EQUITABLE LIFE	14	7	3
NPI	4	8	3
PRUDENTIAL	4	4	3
NORWICH UNION	2	4	3
FRIENDS PROVIDENT	2	2	–
SCOTTISH WIDOWS'	1	1	2
SCOTTISH LIFE	1	–	3
SCOTTISH AMICABLE	1	–	1
EAGLE STAR	1	–	–
NATIONAL MUTUAL	1	–	–
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE	1	–	–
SCOTTISH MUTUAL	1	–	–
PROVIDENT MUTUAL	–	2	7
CLERICAL MEDICAL	–	2	–
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE	–	1	1
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT	–	1	–
SUN ALLIANCE	–	1	–
STANDARD LIFE	–	–	3
BRITANNIA LIFE	–	–	1
EQUITY & LAW	–	–	1
LEGAL & GENERAL	–	–	1
PEARL ASSURANCE	–	–	1

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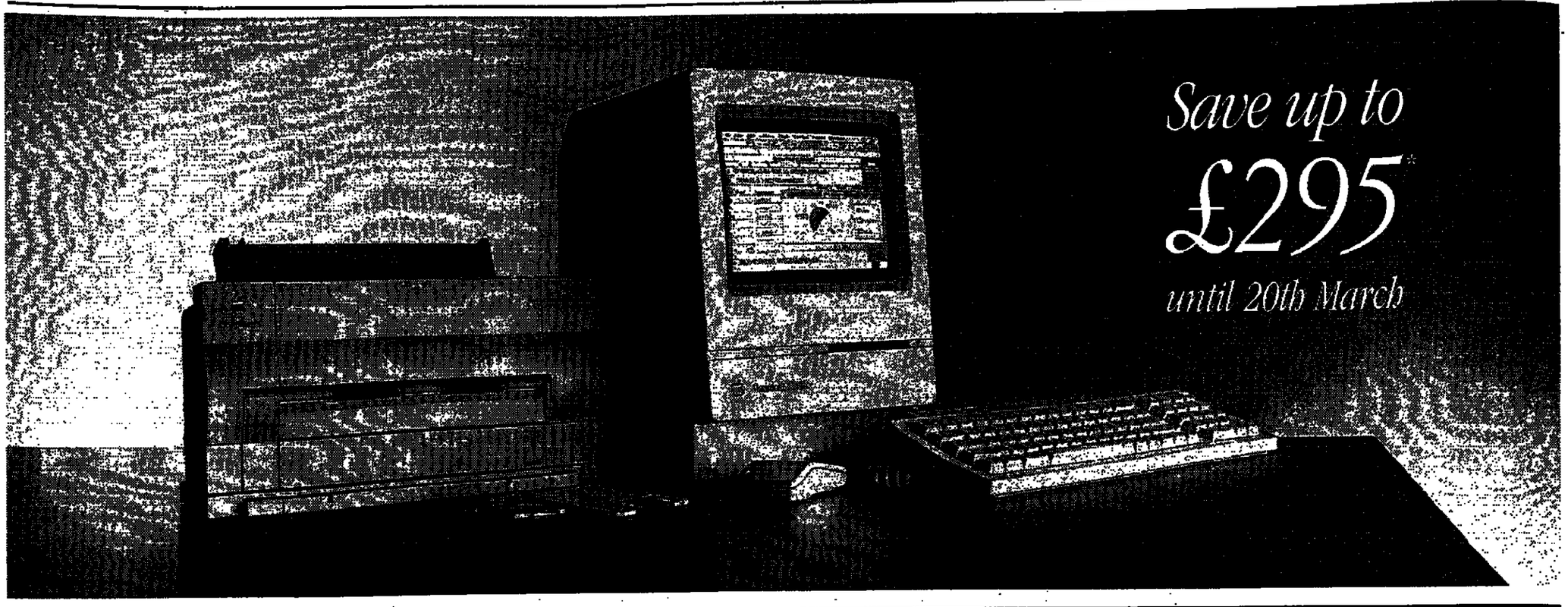
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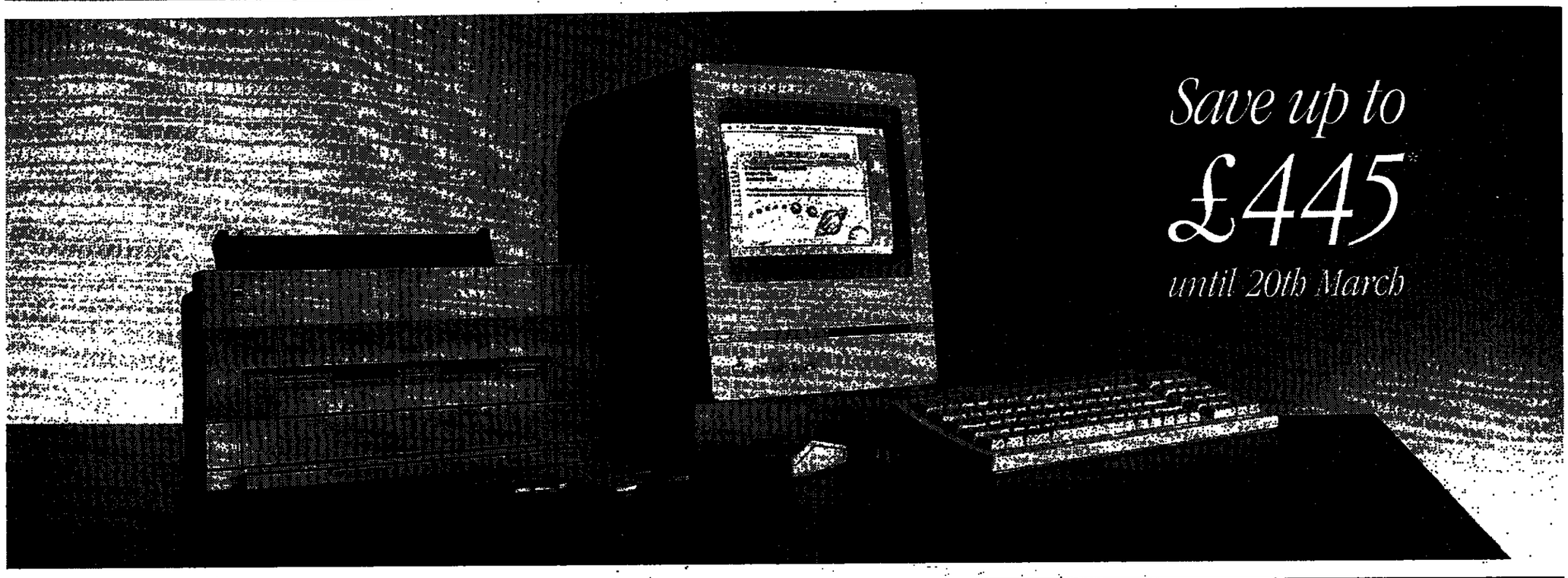
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هكذا من الأصل

Faster, cleaner flight into 21st century aboard airline's 600-seat flagship

Three-deck giant planned by BA

Harvey Elliott foresees comfort zones for 600 pampered passengers in the next airline era

BRITISH Airways is preparing to revolutionise long-haul air travel with a 600-seat jet able to replace the Boeing 747, which was developed nearly 30 years ago.

A ten-strong BA team has been given 18 months to produce detailed parameters for the aircraft, which could serve as the airline's flagship well into the next century. Rod Muddle, BA's head of planning, said yesterday that the much bigger aircraft would be needed by 1998 and manufacturers would have to commit themselves to designs next year.

"No real changes have been made in the way aircraft operate since the 747 was developed nearly 30 years ago," he said.

The aircraft replacing BA's 377-seat 747 would have to be "built around the needs of the airline and its passengers and we therefore have little more than a year in which to rethink the way we fly", he said. "If we don't determine it within that time, the opportunity will have gone for perhaps another 20 years."

The three main aircraft manufacturers are producing external designs for the new jet, which must be able to fly non-stop for up to 14 hours. BA says that the aircraft will end the concept of passengers travelling in a tube while eating, sleeping and being entertained in one seat.

Travellers will be able to exercise, take meals from a central self-service catering area and work, using computers and telephones linked via satellite to the ground.

Windows could be replaced by large television screens running the length of the cabin and showing what is happening outside or giving safety and other information.

Overhead luggage lockers will be abolished and clothes stored, perhaps in personal lockers at the back of the seat or in a central hanging area. Customs and immigration staff could be on board to process documents in flight.

The aircraft must fit into existing taxi-ways and aprons, thus taking no more wing space than the present Boeing 747-400. That will probably mean having folding or telescopic wings and the tailfin might have to be replaced with two smaller fins on the end of the tailplane.

"We do not have anything concrete but we are talking to everyone from passengers to engine and airframe manufacturers to develop views," Mr Muddle said. "Any idea is welcome and we frankly admit at the moment we are throwing up far more questions than answers."

The likely growth in demand for travel and increasing airport congestion inevitably mean bigger aircraft. Mr Muddle predicts that, at a conservative estimate, 100 of the new generation of jets will be needed by 1998, with BA taking 15.

They would be used on the busy routes and link the airline's future "hub" airports in the United States, Europe and the Far East.

That could result in two versions being needed, one to fly east and one west. "A passenger travelling east has different meal times and needs from someone going west," Mr Muddle said. "We may have to have aircraft, and even crews, making a permanent westward journey and another version going the other way."

Main changes will be to the aircraft cabin, which is likely to be on at least two and possibly three decks , not unlike a modern sea ferry.

For take off and landing passengers would sit in newly designed seats with entertainment provided by individual video screens with sound coming while the audio came from microphones in moveable head rests, doing away with earphones.

Downstairs would be a lounge area with a self-service restaurant, drink machines, sofas and possibly sleeping areas. On a third level, linked by an escalator, there could be exercise machines, a business centre, panoramic viewing areas and walkways where passengers could stretch their legs.

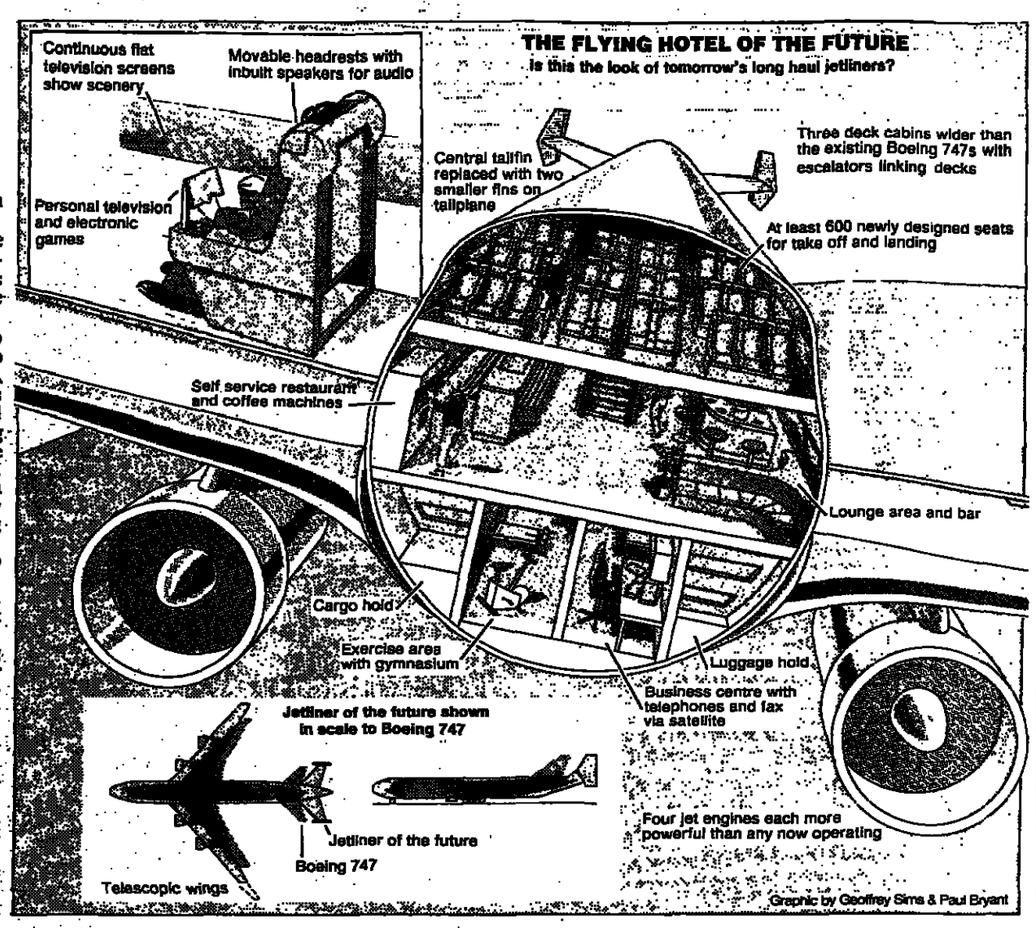
Maintenance engineers have told the design team that the aircraft must be easier to service, with hitches solved during the flight by commands sent from the ground, in the same way that ground engineers now "fix" problems in space craft. Catering must also be changed as, with stretched versions of the initial design able to carry up to 800 passengers, more than 1,600 meals would have to be served on the 7,700 mile journey to Singapore.

BA is determined that the new aircraft should not be too big for any airport on its long-haul network, that it must make less noise than the 747 and need no greater air traffic control separation.

It will have to fly faster, use less fuel, operate higher and provide 20 per cent savings over the latest aircraft. The engines will have to give off no gases harmful to the ozone layer.

"It is all a tremendous challenge," Mr Muddle said. "We have talked to Airbus, Boeing and McDonnell Douglas as well as engine makers and anyone else with any kind of input and told them what we want in principle. We now have a chance to change the way we have become accustomed to fly and we therefore do not want simply a bigger version of existing long-haul aircraft. It is now up to them to tell us whether they can meet our demands or not."

Plane cooking, Saturday Review, page 18



Short is beaten by champion Kasparov

Britain's top rank chess grandmaster Nigel Short experienced a reverse in the eighth round of the International Chess Tournament in Linares, Spain (Raymond Keene writes). Short, who was playing black against the reigning world champion Gary Kasparov, lost his queen after playing boldly but somewhat rashly. Kasparov leads with six points from eight games with five further rounds to be played.

The two previous joint leaders, the Russians Alexander Beliavsky and Anatoly Karpov, both fared less well. Beliavsky drew quickly with Bareev (Russia) to reach 5½ points but Karpov lost to Jan Timman of The Netherlands after blundering on the 40th move. Karpov is left with five points out of eight.

£150,000 award

The widow of a miner who committed suicide after being affected by explosions and roof falls in Europe's deepest mine, the 3,800ft Boulby potash mine in Loftus, Cleveland, was awarded £150,000 damages in the High Court. Catherine Conway, of Redcar, Cleveland, was awarded £94,000 for the death of her husband Patrick and £55,934 for the loss of his job, against his former employers, Cleveland Potash.

Alarmingly low

The defence ministry is investigating why a giant four-engined Hercules transporter flew so low over Oxford that it set off fire alarms. The aircraft is believed to have been on a training exercise from Brize Norton, Oxfordshire.

Inquest halted

An inquest into the death of Bernard Rogers, an American Express executive who died in a fall from his office window, was adjourned at Wareham, Dorset, after the coroner said that new information had come to light. The jury had been about to consider its verdict.

Softer sound

Britain's first all-female radio station, FEM-FM, begins broadcasting in Bristol tomorrow. Programmes will include a weekly Men's Hour.

Director poisoned supermarket beef

BY PETER VICTOR

A CATERING company director who tried to blackmail the Asda supermarket chain out of £500,000 after spiking its minced beef with rat poison was jailed for eight years at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

James Rodwell, aged 32, of Southwark, south London, threatened to cause great financial damage to the company by publicising the fact that food on its supermarket shelves had been contaminated, in the hope of raising money to pay off business debts of £135,000.

The plot was timed to coincide with a sensitive share issue by the Asda group, the court was told. In fact, Rodwell had contaminated only one packet of minced beef at one Asda store and the poison he used would not have harmed humans.

He pleaded guilty to contaminating goods with intent at the Asda store at Crossharbour, in Docklands, east London, and blackmail in October last year.

Rodwell telephoned Barry Watts, the store's food hall manager, warning him to remove a packet of mince bearing a red sticker from the meat section. A laboratory later found that rat poison had been sprinkled on the meat and the pack resealed. Rodwell telephoned the company's headquarters in Leeds and demanded £25,000 in cash and bonds for £500,000. A courier sent to collect the money was followed by the police and Rodwell was trapped.

Move for judges to quit at 70

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JUDGES may have to retire at 70, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, announced yesterday.

He said in a parliamentary answer that he would seek the judiciary's views on retirement at 70 for all judges and judicial officers. Circuit judges now retire when they are 72 and High Court judges and above at 75.

There has been growing pressure for judges to retire at 65. Those who have spoken in favour include Gareth Williams, QC, chairman of the Bar, and Lord Irvine, a frontrunner to become Lord Chancellor if Labour wins the general election.

Earlier retirement for judges is certain to be part of Labour's policy and Lord Mackay's move, while widely welcomed, could be seen as an attempt to steal the Opposition's thunder.

Mr Williams yesterday welcomed the proposals as "a very useful first step, which is long overdue". One result of a lower retirement age would be younger appointments, he added. "Judges must serve at least 20 years before they have pension rights, so with a retirement age of 70, they must be appointed by 50 at the latest."

Lord Mackay said that the new retirement age would apply to full-time judges who take office after it comes into force. Judges in post could retire at the original age. The proposals, which would need legislation, would apply to Northern Ireland as well as England and Wales.

At present, district and circuit judges who have to retire in their 72nd year can be invited to stay on until 75. Many Court of Appeal judges carry on sitting part-time well after that age.

HUW EVANS



Quiet resolve: Sister Benedicta at the abbey

Nuns protest over threat to peace

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

A CONGREGATION of Roman Catholic nuns say plans to build a dual carriageway near their 12th century Cistercian abbey in a south Wales conservation area would shatter their peace and tranquillity.

The nuns, who are supported by the Archbishop of Cardiff, John Aloysius Ward, say the bypass would ruin the restful nature of the abbey, a popular religious retreat for people of all denominations.

The Sisters of St Joseph of Annecy bought Llantarnam Abbey in Gwent in 1946 as the provincial house. "It was considered ideally situated to provide the necessary peace and quiet for prayer and meditation and for convalescence and rehabilitation of sisters working in cities and towns and in our missions of Africa and India," Sister Benedicta, the provincial bursar, said.

The nuns have hired a solicitor and barrister to fight their case at a public enquiry now in progress. The abbey is a grade II listed building which has been linked to the Catholic faith since before the Reformation. Archbishop Ward has asked that the religious and historic character of the abbey be preserved.

Of the 45 sisters at the abbey, 12 are invalids. The nuns, some in wheelchairs, often use the abbey drives for prayer and meditation. Sr Benedicta has told the enquiry that she fears for the safety of partially blind and deaf elderly sisters if an unlit underpass with public footpath is built along the south drive. She said the drive was already used by undesirables and she had been punched by one drunken trespasser.

The proposed bypass would also destroy the view over nearby hillsides and contradict the aim of buying it in the first place. It would disrupt for future generations a "hallowed spot so conducive to the kind of life we live and which is more than ever necessary in our time", Sr Benedicta said.

The nuns' solicitors said the enquiry inspector had been asked to recommend that the underpass be lit and the footpath diverted. The enquiry continues on Monday.

Judge halts trial of policemen

A JUDGE at the Central Criminal Court yesterday halted the trial of three police officers alleged to have tried to convict two suspected burglars by planting fragments of broken glass on their clothing.

Judge Ian Davies directed the jury to acquit Sergeant David Howard, aged 35, Detective Constable Andrew Smith, aged 32, and temporary detective Kimberly Brain, aged 28, all from Islington police station, north London, because of "inherent weaknesses" in the case against them. The judge added on the tenth day of the trial: "I don't believe the prosecution are justified in inferring it must have been one of these three officers."

The prosecution had claimed that DCs Smith and Brain covered a sock belonging to Tracey Castleman with fragments of glass in an attempt to have her convicted of a break-in. It was also alleged that they put glass fragments on her boy friend's coat.

The judge said the clothing had been left on a desk in the CID room at Islington police station where other officers could tamper with it. The three officers, who denied trying to pervert the course of justice, were discharged.

Chic women ignorant about sex

BY RAY CLANCY

WOMEN are becoming more aware of the need to practise safe sex but a large number are still ignorant of basic facts because the education system does not deal effectively with the subject, a survey of female attitudes has found.

An improved system of health care for women is needed because male doctors can be rude and uncaring when dealing with female problems and a fifth of women questioned had never had a smear test, according to the survey by *Elle* magazine and Durex, the condom manufacturers, to be published next week.

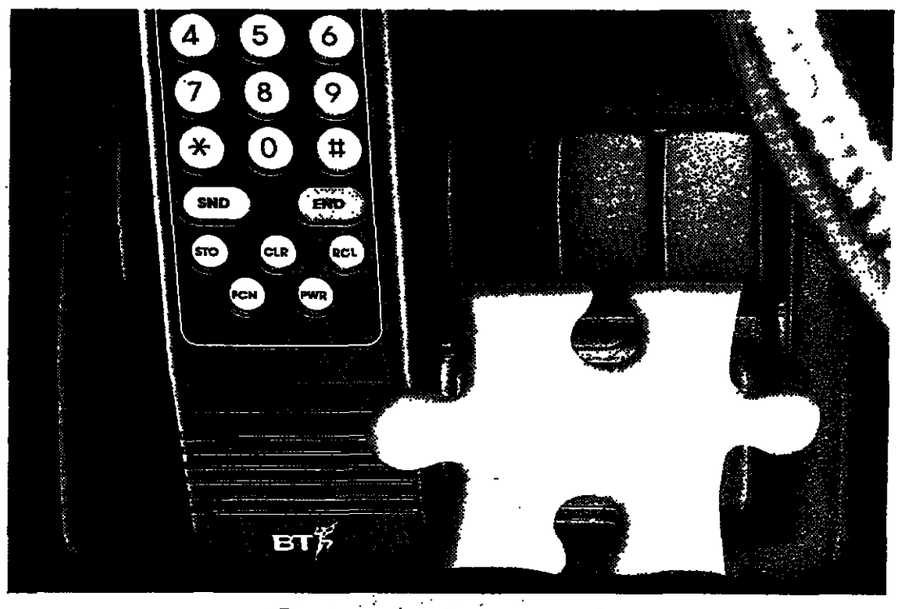
"It is very obvious from this survey that sex education in this country has a very long way to go," the magazine's Jane Alexander said. "We found an alarming number of women said that they had never had a smear test and it would appear that sex education has not moved on in the last decade."

The survey was based on 3,500 replies to a questionnaire by the magazine, of which 1,000 were analysed, as well as hundreds of letter sent in by readers. Although the results are limited to the attitudes of the intelligent, fashion-conscious, single-minded women who read the magazine, psychologists said that they have important implications because the attitudes of these women are likely to be the general trend within a few years.

Eleanor Stephens, a sex psychologist and television producer, said it was disturbing that intelligent women were apparently showing ignorance when it came to safe sex and Aids. "Britain has the highest rate of unplanned pregnancies in Europe. Sex education has always been associated with the biology class when it should be taught in terms of lifestyles and society," she said.

Less than a quarter of the women questioned felt very satisfied with health care standards and a fifth rated standards as bad. Moe than half indicated a preference to be seen by a female doctor. Some women said that they did not know how they could become infected with HIV and others were not certain what was meant by a virgin.

Complaints against male doctors ranged from inconsideration to neglect and accusations of unethical behaviour. Women said they did not like being treated like idiots by male consultants and many of the one in five who said they had had at least one abortion were unhappy about the attitudes they encountered.



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Cuts in armoured forces put Britain at risk, say MPs

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE government's proposals to reduce the army by 25 per cent have put the ability of Britain's armed forces to cope with an "unexpected crisis" in the future at risk, the Commons defence committee said yesterday.

The MPs said the proposed cuts in armoured regiments were disproportionately heavy and they feared the reductions overall had been taken too far.

Their principal concern was that the cuts, which will reduce manpower from 156,000 to 116,000 by early 1995, would make it difficult to react at short notice to unforeseen developments. They also gave a warning that peacetime commitments could only be met "at the cost of unacceptable strain" to the army. The committee's report on the army cuts is not as politically damaging to the government as had been feared by ministers. However, the whole tone is one of concern that the government has been too hasty in making significant reductions. The MPs called on the government to take stock of its proposals during 1992-3.

While not proposing another major upheaval, the MPs advised a fresh assessment to see if there were going to be enough soldiers left to meet future threats.

Tom King, the defence secretary, gave them little cause for optimism. He said yesterday that "if the world changed markedly", the government would have to consider what to do. He said: "But don't read into that that there are grounds for changes. We have to look at this in the broader context, we can't make a fresh assessment every week."

The MPs examined every aspect of the government's proposals for reshaping the army and took exception to the threat posed to the army's traditional ceremonial duties. With the proposed reduction, public duties could be cut by up to a third.

The MPs said it was hard to conceive of state ceremonies being carried out in the future "on anything like their present scale without drafting in troops from non-Guards battalions to a far larger extent than has been done hitherto". This would increase the strain of overstretching.

The MPs said there was uncertainty over the army's future involvement in the 700-year-old guard ceremony at the Tower of London. If the soldiers were to be replaced by policemen, it would be more expensive. They complained that "unpalatable consequences" were only now emerging some time after the original decisions on army cuts had been announced.

The MPs were also worried that Britain's new role in Nato, contributing two armoured divisions to the planned rapid reaction corps, would be undermined by sudden demands for more troops in Northern Ireland. Infantry battalions already felt overstretched, the report said. Emergency tour duty, which includes Northern Ireland, Cyprus and the Falklands, "comes around too often".

Ministers were also reprimanded for refusing to account in detail for the rationale behind regiment mergers. "We cannot accept that parliament should be treated as if it were in the military chain of command, and bidden to shut up and get on with it," the report said.

Defence Committee Third Report, Options for Change: Army — Review of the White Paper, Britain's Army for the 90s (Stationery Office: £20.80)

Leading article, page 13

Tory urges vote for Democrats

BY ANDREW PIERCE

FURTHER acrimony has erupted within the Cheltenham Conservative Association over the selection of John Taylor, a black barrister, as prospective parliamentary candidate.

A secret letter has been circulated within the association, which held its annual meeting last night, from an influential party member urging them to vote Liberal Democrat or abstain rather than support Mr Taylor, the only black candidate defending a Tory majority.

The letter, from Don Ward, an association member, says: "I believe that the Cheltenham Conservative Association deserves to lose this seat because of their misguided and mistaken approach in the selection of candidate. Most of us with strong views are faced with a decision whether to abstain or vote Liberal Democrat."

Cheltenham is on the Liberal Democrats' list of the ten most winnable seats.

Landlords accused of neglect

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

AN MP pressed the government yesterday to extend legislation giving tenants with long leases greater protection against landlords.

Gerald Bowden, Conservative MP for Dulwich, called for a commission to regulate commonhold reforms for those living on a leasehold in multi-unit buildings. He told a Commons debate on commonhold and leasehold reform that the commission could regulate provision of commonhold, act as an independent adviser and adjudicate on disputes between landlords and tenants.

After condemning "excessive management fees and service charges and neglect by landlords", he said lawyers used words that were double Dutch to many people.

Tim Yeo, junior environment minister, said that leasehold enfranchisement and the introduction of commonholds would be a top priority in the next Parliament.

Labour adds up total job losses this year to 125,000

BY OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 125,000 jobs have been lost in the first ten weeks of this year, Labour claimed yesterday.

As the parties stepped up their campaigning with an election expected to be called within days, Labour totted up job losses announced so far and argued that if the Tories kept up their existing policies 400,000 jobs would go this year.

Gordon Brown, Labour trade and industry spokesman, challenged the prime minister to ensure that the budget contained urgent measures to bring the economy swiftly out of recession through investment, training and employment. The 25,000 job losses at British Telecom showed that even Britain's largest companies were not immune to the recession, he said.

Mr Brown published a survey predicting that 200,000 jobs were at risk in manufacturing, including 70,000 in engineering and 20,000 in textiles, if present policies continued. A further 50,000 jobs would go in the construction industry and 150,000 in business services, distribution and retail. Mr Brown said the manufacturing figures were based on the Confederation of British Industry's predictions while others were taken from trade body estimates and Cambridge Econometrics.

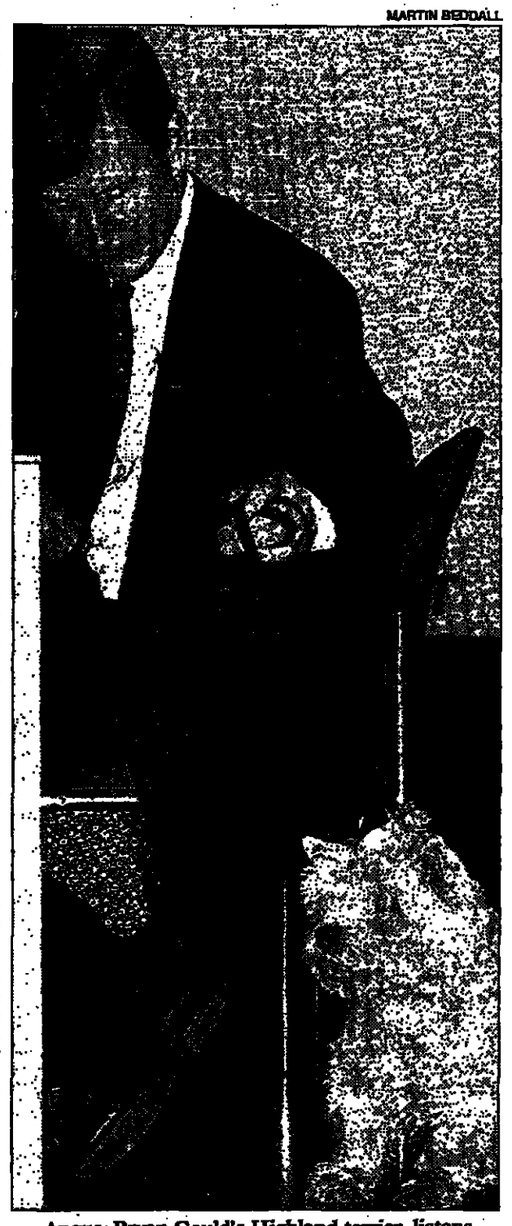
Labour also announced a joint scheme with the Nationwide building society to provide temporary accommodation for about 200 homeless families. Repossessed properties which the society cannot sell would be leased to Labour councils in London. Homeless people currently in bed and breakfast hostels would take out a two to three-year lease and pay rent to the councils. Bryan Gould, shadow environment secretary, said councils would save more than £1 million.

Labour spelt out an animal welfare manifesto which would ban fox hunting, prohibit animal testing of costmetics, phase out battery hen production, ban the farming of territorial animals such as mink and fox and introduce compulsory dog registration.

Michael Meacher, shadow social security secretary, said that 19 million pensioners and parents would gain from Labour's £3.65 billion promises to raise pensions and child benefit. Over ten million retirement pensioners would gain £5 a week if they were single or an extra £8 a week as a couple. Nearly 1.5 million invalidity pensioners, 363,000 widows and 200,000 others would also benefit.

Nearly seven million families would gain from child benefit rises. Mr Meacher said that income support would not be cut.

MARTIN BEDDALL



Angus, Bryan Gould's Highland terrier, listens to details of Labour's animal welfare manifesto

Ministers' hand-out total tops £4 billion

BY JILL SHERMAN POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE government yesterday announced it is to give £45 million to a new urban development corporation in Plymouth, £20 million for the provision of medical equipment and £14 million to help small firms in coalfield areas.

The hand-outs, disclosed in written parliamentary answers, boosted cash pledges in the past three weeks to more than £4 billion.

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, said that the new status would qualify Plymouth for extra government grants for renovating parts of the old naval dockyards and buildings.

He announced that in addition to the £45 million, the defence ministry would hand over surplus development land to the regeneration scheme, sited in an area with two vulnerable Tory seats: Plymouth, Sutton, to be relinquished by Alan Clark, the defence minister, and Plymouth, Drake, held by Dame Janet Fookes.

Peter Lilley, the trade and industry secretary, announced a £14 million scheme for business support measures for small firms in coalfield areas. The scheme, to be introduced in the English Rechar redevelopment areas, will be subject to the European Commission's approval, Mr Lilley said.

The scheme would help to diversify the economy of former coalmining areas by allowing business start-ups and expansion and innovations in small to medium sized companies, he said.

The third announcement came from William Waldegrave, the health secretary, who listed successful bids for a £20 million fund for medical equipment. The money, part of a three-year rolling programme, will allow hospitals to buy scanners, linear accelerators and other diagnostic equipment.

In the past three weeks the government has announced an extra £1.5 billion on defence projects, £600 million on pensions, £500 million on above-inflation rises for the medical profession, teachers and armed forces and £125 million for regional development in areas affected by pit closures.

Scots told to beware of attacks on union

BY KERRY GILL

PARTIES intent on breaking up the United Kingdom through Scottish independence or by devolution were attacked last night by Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor.

Scots should not be lured into accepting utopian slogans from people who would fragment the UK for their own political ends, he said in Glasgow. "Much more unites us than divides us. Let us build on what unites us and develop it further. Division is apt to be a precursor of dangerous conflict."

Lord Mackay was the latest in a series of senior Conservative figures to defend the constitutional status quo. Like Douglas Hurd and Kenneth Baker last week, he sought to destroy the arguments put forward by the Scottish National party and Labour for independence or reform.

"The threat to the union is probably greater now than has been the case for many years," he said. "We are talking about 300 years of shared history which is being threatened not only by separatist forces but also by those who claim to be friends of the union but who have, of late, been reluctant to speak out strongly in defence of its virtues."

Lord Mackay said the constitutional issue was not just another political debate, but the outcome would have irrevocable consequences. He criticised people who claimed that the Tories were anti-Scottish and who took a strongly emotional approach in the argument.

"It is not anti-Scottish to be for the union, rather it is anti-Scottish to put the future of Scotland at risk," he said. "I believe it would be a tragedy if our people were to be moved by the attempt made by some to blame England and the Westminster Parliament for all Scotland's perceived ills."

Lord Mackay questioned the nationalists' view that an independent Scotland could readily become a member state of the European Community. It was hard to see how Scotland could increase its influence in Europe by throwing overboard its UK allies, he said.

The SNP's claim that an independent Scotland would take control of all North Sea oil and gas reserves was "misleading in the extreme". Negotiations would be long and difficult and would contain the seeds of eventual conflict. "We have seen states breaking up in eastern Europe. They may carry lessons for us," he said.

Bragg on Edinburgh, Saturday Review, page 24



Mackay: more unites than divides us

New talks to start on Ulster

A NEW round of all-party talks in Northern Ireland will start on Monday, it was announced yesterday.

The British and Irish governments gave the go-ahead after agreeing to put Anglo-Irish conference meetings on hold until after the election, in a seven-hour meeting between Peter Brooke, Northern Ireland secretary, and David Andrews, the Irish foreign minister.

Mr Brooke said: "We now have the ability to go ahead and meet political leaders in Northern Ireland and I would look forward to meeting them next week. I am pleased that these talks are taking place. We can go on talking up to the moment the election is called."

Royal assent ends reign of poll tax

BY ROBERT MORGAN, PARLIAMENTARY STAFF

THE Act of Parliament to end the poll tax yesterday received royal assent, completing its final stage through Parliament.

Ministers saw the passing of the Local Government Finance Act before the general election as essential if the council tax was to be in place by April next year.

Other acts given royal assent included the Local Government Act, which paves the way for the biggest reorganisation of English councils for nearly 20 years, also received royal assent, the Aggravated Vehicle-Taking Act, increasing penalties for joyriding, and the Offshore Safety Act, which implements many of the safety recommendations included in the Cullen report into the Piper Alpha oil platform disaster.

The Further and Higher Education Act, which takes colleges out of local government control, and the Coal Industry Act, which provides more state money for restructuring the industry, also passed their final stage, as did the Bingo, Taxation of Chargeable Gains, Licensing (Amendment) (Scotland) Act and the Nurses' Midwives' and Health Vistors' Act.

Two private members' bills completed all readings and await royal assent: the offshore safety (protection against victimisation) bill, and the access to neighbouring land bill, letting home owners go on neighbours' land to carry out repairs.

Labour left 'smeared with the truth'

CONSERVATIVE party officials handed journalists dossiers yesterday listing Labour MPs who have espoused left-wing causes, although they said it was not an attempt to make personal attacks on their opponents.

The 259-page bright pink glossy document, *Who's Left*, revealed the extent of the Tories' research into the personal records of Labour MPs over the past seven years. It is understood to be the work of Julian Lewis, a deputy director of the Tories' research department, who devotes much of his time to seeking out left-wingers.

Chris Patten, the party chairman, described it as a "serious and scholarly work" on the attitudes of MPs seeking re-election towards prominent left-wing causes, although Labour immediately claimed it was full of inaccuracies.

The document was accompanied by a statement from Mr Patten who argued that, unlike Labour, the Conservatives had not paid attention to the personal backgrounds of opposition candidates. Yet it details backing given by 207 named MPs to left-wing causes under such titles as "support for law-breaking".

Central Office denies that its glossy pink dossier on Opposition MPs is a descent into personal attacks, **Sheila Gunn** writes

Mr Patten cited the "Larry Whitty" letter as proving that Labour resorted to dirtier tricks than the Tories. Mr Whitty, Labour's general secretary, had written to all Labour groups in August 1990 asking for information on "the various lunacies, gaffes or misdeed of prominent Tory candidates, MPs, councillors, etc." and examples of "rabid right-wing policies". Leading Tories reacted with outrage at these tactics.

When John Major was challenged this week about Tory smears, he told the Labour MP Clare Short to "look in the backyard of her own party". He was said to be referring to the Whitty letter and the leaks by shadow ministers.

Yesterday's dossier was criticised by Bryan Gould, the shadow environment secretary, as part of the unsavoury aspect of the Tories' election campaign. "It is something they have derived from American campaigning techniques, spending a great deal of money attacking their opponents in personal terms. This is not what the election should be about," he said.

Norman Tebbit, the former Tory party chairman, anticipated the reaction by saying that if Labour MPs denounced the document as a smear, then they were being "smeared with the truth". Although the document does not carry a price tag, the Conservative party's press secretary, Tim Collins, said it would cost £30 from Central Office in London's Smith Square.

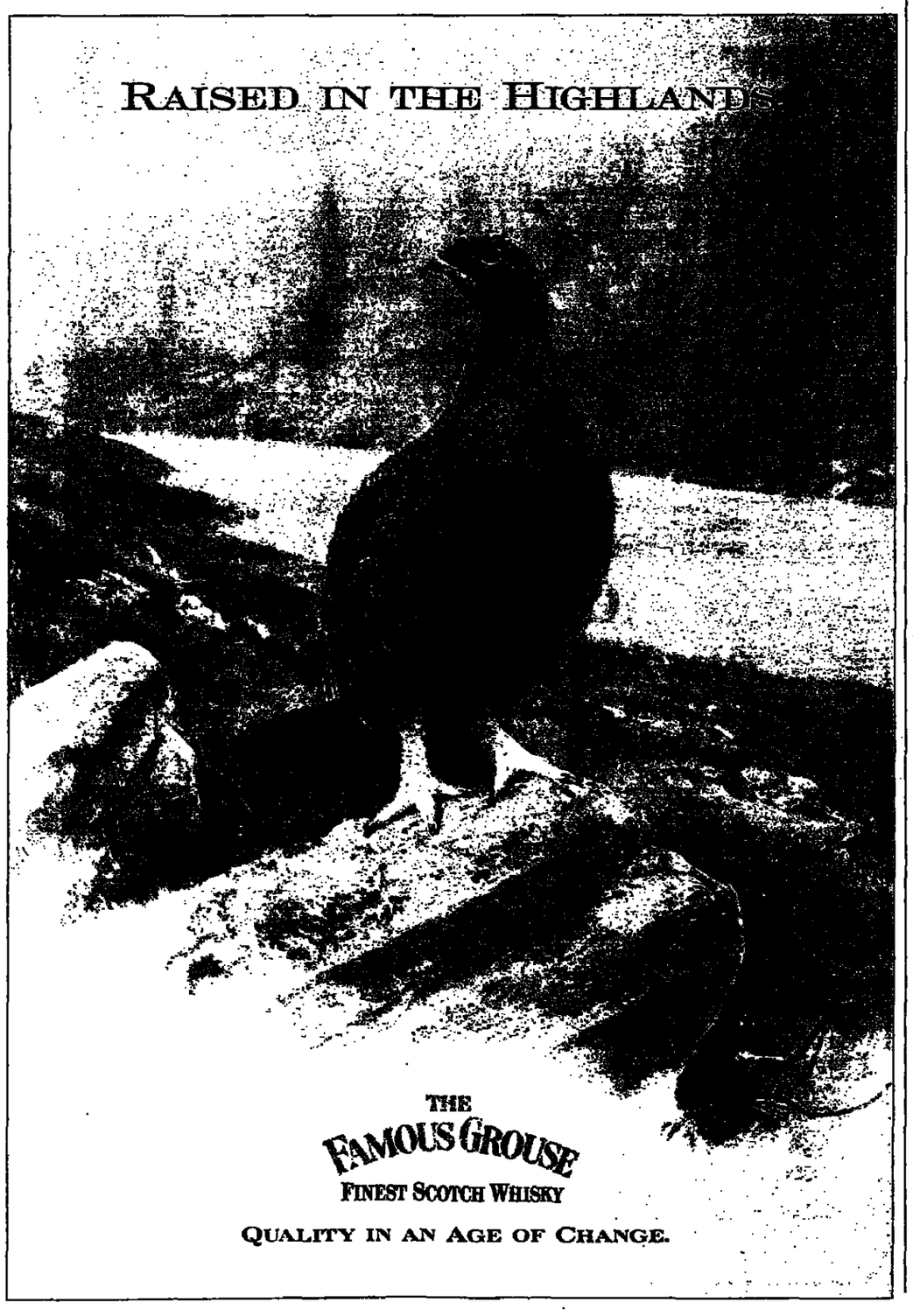
"We do not expect to sell a large number," he said. "This is not a profit-making exercise. It is a valuable and important contribution to public debate."

Mr Patten defended the publication as justified because Labour tried to convince the public that it was now a moderate and responsible party. "Unlike our opponents, we have not sought to make personal attacks, drawing attention instead to their political record. Nor have we paid attention to the personal backgrounds of opposition candidates — as Labour did with its infamous Larry Whitty letter."

Mr Patten said that allowances could be made for isolated mishaps and misjudgments. "But when you consider that no fewer than 99 Labour MPs have endorsed four or more leftist causes, this clearly suggests both consistency and commitment. It cannot be brushed aside or dismissed. *Who's Left* is a serious and scholarly work, meticulously undertaken and painstakingly documented."

His main target is the support given by Labour MPs to unilateral nuclear disarmament, the former communist regimes and militant trade unionism. "These are not fringe issues of interest just to political pundits," Mr Patten said. "They have had a major impact on our recent history.

"People are entitled to ask themselves, if these MPs' judgments were so flawed in the past, why should we trust them in the future?"



Arab Canutes try to stem mounting Islamic tide

Relief in the palaces, disillusion in the streets. Christopher Walker reports from Cairo on the shadow cast by the muzzling of Algeria's fundamentalists

A SIGH of relief has been audible from rulers throughout the Arab world after Algeria's decision to outlaw the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) which during its 29 months was at the forefront of the region's uneasy progress towards democracy.

A worried member of Kuwait's royal family issued a warning that, if the fundamentalists had taken power in Algeria, Tunisia would have followed suit immediately, Morocco a year later and the ripple effect would have spread through the area. The welcome at the top has been matched by disillusion at street level and tempered by the realisation that, at best, the decision is only a stopgap to hold back a rising fundamentalist tide.



Boudiaf: any changes must not be hasty

"This is only a temporary measure. Unless by a miracle they can turn around the economy and give the young something to think about, they are in for a struggle," one Algiers-based diplomat said. Another added: "They might have crushed it for six months, but at the price of more terrorist attacks."

Those views were echoed by ordinary Algerians, many of whom were taken aback by the court decision, an appeal against which will be heard next week. Many had been expecting more of a fudge while a political compromise was sought. "The end of the FIS does not signify that the 3.5 million Algerians who gave it their voice (in the December election) are suddenly going to change," Djaafer Said told *Le Quotidien d'Algérie*.

The FIS has already resorted to underground methods of communication. The last fax before the ban, signed by its two most senior officials still at large, declared: "If the front is dissolved, we will give the word to the people, who will find other means to battle oppression and realise their aspirations." Western experts believe a showdown is unlikely during the holy month of Ramadan. They think initial moves could involve unrest in the universities, which has already begun, efforts to disrupt industry and attacks on security targets.

Muhammad Boudiaf, aged 72, head of the five-man presidency, acknowledged this week the national impatience for change and social justice but appealed for time, saying: "Change must not be carried out hastily." Despite pressure from disaffected youth, one initial result of the aborted Algerian experiment in democracy has been to strengthen the hand of those other parts of the Arab world arguing for only a gradual introduction of democratic reform.

At the recent opening of the Cairo book fair, Egyptian writers and intellectuals pleaded with President Mubarak to proceed cautiously with Egypt's programme of democratic reform to avoid a repetition of events in Algeria. Earlier this week, more evidence of grassroot support for fundamentalism was provided in the Israeli-occupied Arab town of Ramallah, where backers of the Palestine Liberation Organisation were dealt a stunning defeat by the Islamic bloc in the first chamber of commerce elections staged for 25 years.

"People want a change. The peace negotiations have given no results," one of the Islamic candidates, who won 10 of the 11 seats, said.

The brake being put on democratisation is likely to increase violence and unrest. Even in tiny Kuwait, the women have taken to the streets — albeit in their Mercedes and BMWs — to demand the vote. In Yemen, tens of thousands of workers ended a 24-hour general strike on Monday but threatened a longer stoppage beginning on March 16 if the government fails to meet their demands for sweeping political and economic reform. Caution was also the watchword behind Saudi constitutional reforms announced by King Fahd last Sunday, 20 years after they were first promised. Even allowing for the deep conservatism of Saudi society, the appointment of a nominated 60-member consultative council was seen by independent observers as little more than cosmetic. Western diplomats, although in favour of change in the still largely autocratic and dictatorial Arab world, are perhaps not pushing for it as hard as they might elsewhere. Bitter experience at the polls in Jordan, Algeria, and now the occupied West Bank has shown that the freer the vote, the more likely in present economic circumstances will it be that it is the Islamic extremists who benefit.



Barring the way: riot police round up fundamentalists on their way to an Algiers mosque after clashes in January. Unrest has flared again in universities coupled with attacks on security targets

Libyan handover opposed

Tripoli: A Libyan judge who has resigned as chief investigator into the Lockerbie bombing said any decision to hand over two Libyan suspects would be illegal.

The United Nations has told Libya to hand them over for trial charged with planting explosives on a Pan Am plane which blew up over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988, killing 270 people.

Libya has hinted it would hand the men over if Washington improves bilateral relations. It has also proposed Malta and Sweden as possible trial venues. Ahmed al-Zawi, the judge, said offers to surrender the two men or allow a trial in a neutral court outside the country were among reasons why he resigned on Sunday. He said extradition of the men would be "unacceptable" and against Libyan law. *(Reuter)*

Ghana path to democracy set

Accra: Flight Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings, the head of state, said Ghana would hold a referendum on a new constitution on April 28, presidential elections on November 3, and parliamentary polls on December 8 for a return to civilian rule by January 7. A ban on party political activity is to be lifted on May 18. Opposition groups say the ban should go before the referendum. *(Reuter)*

Aids ruling

Kuwait: The emirate has deported 95 foreigners infected with the Aids virus, the government said. Legislation was under way to make Aids tests compulsory for foreigners seeking residence. *(Reuter)*

Bans removed

Singapore: Singapore lifted a ban on imports of South African goods in force since 1965. A ban on the shipment and export of petroleum and petroleum products to South Africa, imposed in 1989, was also removed. *(Reuter)*

Mugabe declares food alert

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Mugabe said yesterday that the drought afflicting Zimbabwe was a national disaster and he appealed to foreign donors for food, money and medicines.

He said he was assigning senior cabinet ministers to each of Zimbabwe's eight provinces as resident co-ordinators. The drought follows three successive years of poor rainfall that has hit harvests and water reserves. International aid, he said, was needed to avert starvation.

Although he said that the drought would adversely affect people and livestock, he dismissed any possibility of compromise on his controversial plan to seize white-owned farmland for the resettlement of black peasant farmers. "Nobody [in the government] could dare develop cold feet," he said in Harare. "If I see anyone with cold feet, I will put hot irons under him. Vigorously we shall proceed with the bill. The time is right to proceed with it."

Zimbabwe is one of several southern African nations suffering the worst drought since records began around 1900. The government last month ordered nearly two million tonnes of corn from the United States and Latin America to replace failed crops of maize — the staple diet.

Veterinary surgeons say at least 90,000 cattle have died of starvation since December in areas where temperatures have soared to a record 46C (115F). Many areas have received less than one-fifth of the average annual rainfall.

Mr Mugabe yesterday denied that his government ignored warnings of food shortages at the beginning of the rainy season that runs from November to March. "We are only now able to say with a degree of certainty that there will not be enough water," he said. He added that some children may have died from related diseases but there were no reports of "direct deaths from hunger".

Preacher loses life in trains violence

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

Ministers of the Trains Christian Fellowship are a boon to black workers commuting by train between Johannesburg and the surrounding townships. For a few moments each day the drudgery of their lives is alleviated by lay preachers, such as Restored Mtambeki, who lead them in prayer in their Xhosa language.

This week Mr Mtambeki, aged 72, was thrown to his death from a speeding train for preaching in the "wrong" language, the victim of a fierce conflict between Zulus professing loyalty to the Inkatha Freedom party and Xhosa-speaking township dwellers sympathetic to the African National Congress.

Mr Mtambeki knew he was a marked man. Last year he was beaten up on a train for preaching in Xhosa. Jeremiah Ngobese, a fellow minister who is Zulu, was with him this week when two men confronted him on the 5pm train from Katlehong township to Wadeville. He described what happened next: "They said to him 'Come, Xhosa, it is your time.'"

He pleaded with them to give him a few minutes for prayer. "They let the old man pray and then he said: 'I am finished.' They took him and beat him, then they tossed him from the train." He died instantly.

In the past 18 months, 125 people have been killed and almost 600 have been injured in 48 attacks on black commuter trains.

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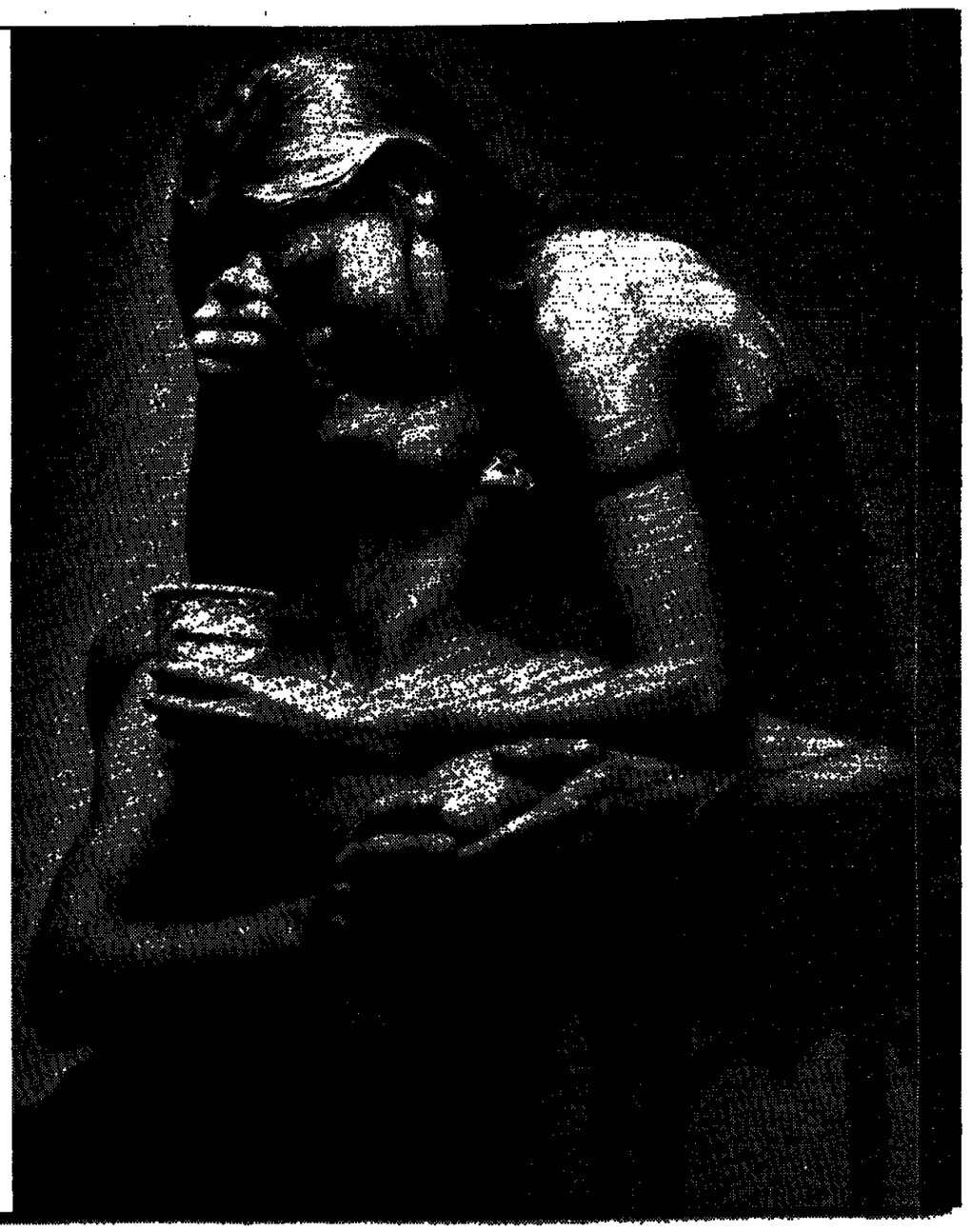
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Azerbaijan opposition wins fight to pin guilt for Nagorno-Karabakh setbacks on president

Mutalibov goes as war clouds darken

FROM DEBORAH SEWARD IN AGDAM, AZERBAIJAN

PRESIDENT Mutalibov, a career communist who held on to power in Azerbaijan despite the Soviet collapse, resigned yesterday.

Mr Mutalibov, aged 53, resigned amid recent military setbacks by Azerbaijan in its fierce fighting with neighbouring Armenia over the disputed mainly Armenian mountainous enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. Since Thursday, when Azerbaijani legislators met in emergency session, thousands have rallied outside the parliament demanding his resignation. The president, seen by some as a stabilising influence in Azerbaijan as its former party leader, had been under pressure in parliament to intensify the battle over Nagorno-Karabakh.

He told parliament that he was resigning because he feared aggression against his republic. "For two days we have been tormenting each other. More accurately, I have been tormenting you," an exhausted Mr Mutalibov told the chamber. "It is possible that there might be some aggression against our people. Therefore, I have decided to resign."



Mutalibov: sees risks of renewed aggression

Mr Mutalibov's departure is likely to mean a worsening in the four-year-old battle for Nagorno-Karabakh, which Muslim Azerbaijan has controlled since 1923. More than 1,000 people have died since 1988 in the bloodiest ethnic conflict in the former Soviet Union.

"Of course, the war will escalate," an official at the Azerbaijani mission in Moscow said. "He [Mr Mutalibov] was a restraining factor on parliament." In an interview in January, Mr Mutalibov said that Nagorno-Karabakh "diverts us from resolving all our basic problems."

The economist and career communist functionary resigned as the republic's party leader after the failed August coup and transferred the party's property and assets to the government. He was overwhelmingly elected president on September 8 when he was the only candidate. Other contenders dropped out of the race before the vote, saying that they had not been given enough time for a proper campaign.

By Thursday, Mr Mutalibov seemed to be bowing to pressure when he made a speech in parliament calling for liberation of Armenian-held land in Nagorno-Karabakh, for strengthening his country's borders, and for creation of a national army.

His speech did not go far enough, it seems, and he spent yesterday meeting members of the parliamentary opposition and discussing his proposed resignation.

Yesterday Azerbaijan launched an offensive against Armenian villages in Nagorno-Karabakh, seizing and burning a village not far from the site of an alleged massacre by Armenia last week.



Hardline triumph: opposition protesters shaking their fists outside parliament in Baku yesterday before hearing that their demand for the resignation of President Mutalibov had succeeded. The protesters had prevented deputies from leaving the building

Defiant Bosnia seeks UN seat

FROM TIM JUDAH IN SARAJEVO

BOSNIA-Herzegovina applied yesterday for full membership of the United Nations as it began an all-out drive for international recognition. The move came as the most senior Yugoslav military men in Bosnia said they would never agree to leaving the republic, but that a Soviet-style transformation of the army was on the agenda.

Last weekend, almost two-thirds of Bosnians voted for independence in a referendum mostly boycotted by Serbs. Before the poll, Muslim and Bosnian Croat politicians demanded that the army withdraw from an independent Bosnia. On Sunday, militant Serb groups held the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, to ransom with barricades. The uprising collapsed after General Miluin Kukanjac, the head of one of the four Yugoslav military districts, denounced the militiamen as bandits, and offered the government his support in removing the barricades.

Yesterday Haris Silajdzic, Bosnia's foreign minister, said: "After this very positive behaviour, we will continue our dialogue to solve the problem in the best possible way. The army must be reduced, but some kind of arrangement is possible." If some form of deal is reached, then a breakthrough will have been made in resolving the Bosnian and Yugoslav conflicts.

Mr Silajdzic said his ministry was sending out faxes to governments, heads of state, "and every single relevant institution in the world", demanding recognition. In January the European Community responded to Bosnia's request for recognition by asking for a referendum first. "We have now fulfilled this condition," Mr Silajdzic said. On Thursday, Radovan Karadzic, Bosnia's main Serb leader, threatened a war which would "burn Europe" if the EC so much as mentioned recognition before Bosnia was re-organised internally. Mr Silajdzic dismissed this as blackmail.

The EC-sponsored conference on Bosnia is set to resume today in Brussels, and the EC peace conference on Yugoslavia on Monday.

● **Moscow:** The spectre of Russia's traditional friendship with Serbia rose like a genie out of a dusty pre-first world war bottle yesterday as the Russian parliament agreed somewhat grudgingly to send 900 soldiers to join the United Nations peacekeeping force in Yugoslavia (Bruce Clark writes).

The enthusiasm of all parties to the Yugoslav conflict for help from their big Slav brothers left the legislature little choice but to dispatch the unit, already drawn up in the garrison town of Ryazan, south of Moscow.

It will be the first time since 1914 that Russia — as opposed to the Soviet state — has sent troops beyond its frontiers, and presumably the first contribution to a peacekeeping force by a state which technically has no army.

Shevardnadze returns to save Georgia's dream

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN MOSCOW

EDUARD Shevardnadze, the man who transformed East-West relations as Soviet foreign minister, will today take one of the biggest gambles of his political life by returning to the fray in his native Georgia.

An intensively controversial figure in his home republic, he is clearly bidding to regain the leadership of a state that has been torn apart by the fighting that toppled Zviad Gamsakhurdia, its controversial nationalist president in January. Mr Shevardnadze, aged 64, whose 13 years as Georgia's communist boss are remembered with nostalgia by some compatriots and disdain by others, will bring to its capital, Tbilisi, the weight of his international prestige and his considerable skills as a compromise-broker. He pledged in Moscow yesterday to forge a political alliance "with all healthy forces in Georgia in the cause of its salvation, the establishment of national and racial harmony and the dignified entry of our motherland into the world community of civilised states".

Georgia, whose wealth and beauty long made it the most attractive of Soviet republics, has been the least successful in gaining world recognition, because of the authoritarian behaviour of Mr Gamsakhurdia and the uncertain legitimacy of the regime that ousted him. Mr Shevardnadze said yesterday that he had been in frequent telephone contact recently with the "military council", which mounted January's rebellion and has since been struggling to restore order and set the political process in motion.

He has not been to Georgia since April 1989, when he paid a brief troubleshooting visit after the killing of demonstrators by Soviet troops created a wave of public anger and set in motion the unstoppable drive for independence. He will find the city's historic centre in ruins after the latest bout of fighting — which Mr Gamsakhurdia's supporters accuse Mr Shevardnadze of fomenting — and in the grip of economic chaos that contrasts sharply with the corrupt but outwardly contented prosperity over which he once presided.

Mr Shevardnadze, who recently paid a flying visit to the United States, pledged to forge links and secure economic assistance — initially in the form of humanitarian aid — from individual cities and states across America as well as from Washington. However, he will have to contend with the fact that Mr Gamsakhurdia's propaganda machine portrayed him as an almost diabolical figure, and the effects of this on public opinion will not disappear overnight.

For admirers of the ousted nationalist leader, Mr Shevardnadze's arrival will confirm their worst suspicions about his role in the January fighting. For those who loathed Mr Gamsakhurdia the arrival of the elder statesman will bring glimmerings of hope that a golden age in Georgia's cultural life might return.

Many ordinary Georgians will settle for anybody who is capable of bringing order and prosperity to the country.

Polish leader clings to rejected recipe

JAN Olszewski, the prime minister of Poland, promised yesterday that he would not resign despite the humiliating parliamentary defeat of his government's economic programme (Roger Boyes writes from Warsaw). "There is no alternative to the policy we have presented," he said after an emergency cabinet session.

On Thursday, parliament threw out Mr Olszewski's programme, which is aimed at increasing exports and encouraging investment but which also provides for the injection of more money into the economy to ease Poland's deep recession.

The market liberals who made up the last Solidarity government under Jan Krzysztof Bielecki say that the plan could open a devastating round of hyper-inflation that would put all market reforms in jeopardy. The International Monetary Fund and the World Bank are also nervous that Poland may be about to withdraw from the essentially Thatcherite policies of the past two years.

Mr Olszewski's government looks shaky. The root of the problem is that it is built on a narrow parliamentary base. Its main support comes from the right-wing Christian National Union, whose sympathisers occupy the key ministerial positions. The centre-right parties are hopelessly outnumbered in parliament, however.



Pussyfooting: Tomcat Mimine sticking out its tongue after undertaking a 250-mile journey from Tourcoing in north France to Normandy, where owner Bertrand was holidaying in 1990

Identity crisis racks land of Freud

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN VIENNA

Austria's citizens, who have spent the week in the pleasurable aftermath of *Carneval*, have been rudely awakened by the announcement by Franz Vranitzky, the chancellor, that the country's neutral status may soon be challenged.

Herr Vranitzky reminded his people that they were living in a changing world and added that, if Europe were to develop a common security policy, Austria would "know how to respond to this situation and on which road to set itself".

The mere hint that neutrality may not be forever has unleashed something of a panic in a country passionately devoted to keeping out of the maelstrom of world affairs. The conservatives and the far right Freedom party have condemned Herr Vranitzky, a Socialist, for his suggestion, with the Freedom party accusing him of being prepared "to barter Austria's soul" in return for membership of the European Community. But with other East European states, and even Russia, knocking on Nato's door, Austria's position is looking increasingly untenable.

Now that the Soviet threat has gone, it is unclear what Austria considers its neutrality to mean. The country allowed overflights during the Gulf war, and has vociferously supported Slovenia and Croatia in the Yugoslav conflict. Thomas Klestil, the conservative candidate for the presidency, is campaigning on the slogan "Helping to establish Austria's deserved place in the world". He does not specify what this should be.

Harald Leupold-Löwenthal, an eminent psychotherapist and president of the Vienna Freud society, has a psychological explanation for the Austrian attitude. "We like to believe that we are much bigger and more important than we are. People take it as an insult if they are reminded that we are really a rather insignificant nation of seven million people. The old feeling of pride and grandeur derived from the Austro-Hungarian empire is still there. Neutrality allowed us to go on feeling special while at the same time avoiding the buffetings of the wider world."

Austria, he said, is preoccupied with dreams of the past. "Everyone is horrified by the challenge to neutrality" because "it represents change and change is abhorrent to Austrians." Herr Leupold-Löwenthal's analyses of his fellow citizens ensure that, while he enjoys the respect devoted to psychotherapists in Freud's home city, he is considered rather disloyal by politicians currently obsessed with "anti-Austrian tendencies".

Peter Millar, page 12

Spanish protest at ski outing

Madrid: Spain has protested formally to Britain about an unannounced skiing exercise by the Gibraltar Regiment in the Sierra Nevada in which an officer was killed by an avalanche. It has also said such activities must cease (Edward Owen writes).

The regiment has gone on similar exercises in the past, but foreign ministry sources said yesterday that Britain had underestimated the sensitivity of the Gibraltar situation.

Conflicting statements have amused Spaniards. The Madrid embassy said the men were on holiday with their families. But the Ministry of Defence said they were on an exercise called "Operation Snow Fox" and that Spanish permission had been sought. This proved untrue.

Martens lets slip the reins

Brussels: Three and a half months after an indecisive general election, Belgium's politicians think they have lined up enough parties to form a coalition government (George Brock writes).

The cabinet will look like the last one but, for almost the first time in 12 years, will probably not be headed by Wilfried Martens, the veteran prime minister. King Baudouin yesterday invited Jean-Luc Dehaene, aged 51, of the Flemish Christian Democrats, to form a government.

Safety first

Moscow: British companies are to help train Russian managers in energy-saving techniques, and have offered their services in testing safety standards at recently upgraded nuclear power stations of the Chernobyl type.

Wedding gifts

Helsinki: Russian couples can get married in style thanks to a gift of 50 bridal gowns and 10 white-tie outfits for grooms from a Finnish company. The clothes will be rented to couples by St Petersburg city authorities. *(Reuter)*

Asset stripped

Sofia: Andrei Lukanov, Bulgaria's last communist prime minister, will be evicted from his flat after a court cancelled a 1982 contract enabling him to buy it. *(Reuter)*

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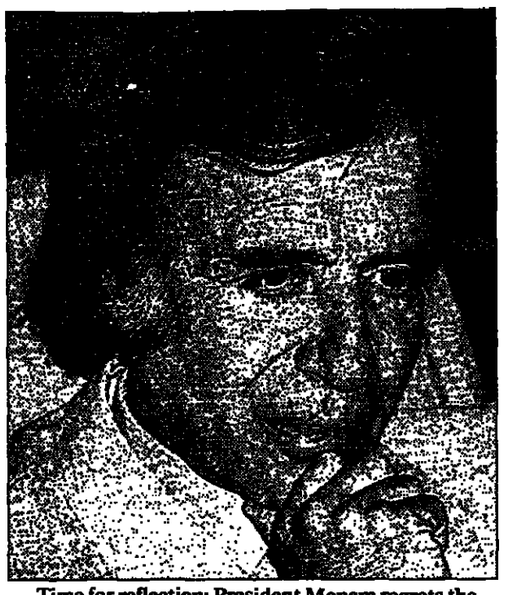
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Menem will fight for Falklands on the diplomatic front



Time for reflection: President Menem regrets the Falklands war but wants Britain to agree to talks

Nobody wins wars, President Menem tells Gabriella Gamini in Buenos Aires, but he says through peaceful means the Falklands will belong to Argentina

PRESIDENT Menem of Argentina has said that he regrets the Falklands war ten years ago, and that it was a mistake. But he promised to fight on the diplomatic front for sovereignty over the islands. "Evidently it was a mistake, although it showed how brave and capable the Argentinian soldier was," the president said in an interview with *The Times* at his residence outside Buenos Aires this week.

Less than a month away from the anniversary of April 2, 1982, when Argentina invaded the islands, Señor Menem said that his government would never contemplate war again. But it would continue to press for sovereignty over the islands which Argentinians call the Malvinas and consider to be theirs.

"Nobody wins wars," he said. "There is no other way out but diplomacy. He said that he would persist with Argentina's claims through the Organisation of American States and the United Nations. He added that there was a resolution before the UN seeking "decolonisation of the occupied territories", and it would be pressing for it to be put into effect.

He said he had "no doubt that Argentina will recover its rights over the islands", adding that he had called repeatedly for negotiations with Britain over sovereignty, but Britain had rejected his call because both countries had agreed when they resumed diplomatic relations in February 1990 that they would shelve the sovereignty issue indefinitely. "Britain is opposing our claims, so we will just have to keep insisting. We think the Malvinas are ours."

Señor Menem, who comes from La Rioja, one of Argentina's poorest northern provinces, where he was governor before being elected president in 1989, is known for his stubbornness. He believes that through perseverance and improved relations with Britain he will get negotiations on the future of the islands. "The day will arrive when the British will agree to talk. One of our great virtues is perseverance and I am sure we will win," he said.

The president denied that at one of his pre-election rallies in Tierra del Fuego, the southernmost province, in 1989 he called Britain "the pirates of the world" and promised that "Argentina will shed every drop of blood to get the Malvinas back." He was widely known for voicing anti-British feelings in his presidential campaign, but a few weeks after he came to office, on July 8, 1989, he changed his approach. Since then, improving relations with Britain has been an important objective of his government.

In an effort to reinforce the ties, he announced recently that he plans to visit Britain at the beginning of next year.

"When I came to power we had a 200-mile exclusion zone around the Malvinas; now it is a mere 12 miles. And, in time, after more negotiations we will get more," he said. Ministerial talks between Britain and Argentina in the past 18 months have led to agreement on fishing rights and talks are under way on joint oil and gas exploration.

Argentina wants to play a big part in any oil and gas exploration in the area around the Falklands, Señor Menem said. Asked whether the islanders should be consulted on oil exploration, he replied: "No, why should they decide?" They deserved consideration, but "they are not the owners of the Malvinas".

Señor Menem claims to be the architect of Argentina's recent economic and political stability. He believes that the country's improved image will help the international community to take its claims of sovereignty over the islands more seriously.

"My government has completely changed the image of Argentina abroad," he said. "Before, we were a country that could not be trusted and taken seriously."

Today, Argentina's monthly inflation figure is less than 2 per cent. Wide economic reforms have tied the peso to the American dollar. The government is also selling loss-making state industries and has promised to start repaying a $63 billion (£36.7 billion) foreign debt.

Polls indicate that 47 per cent of Argentinians are happy with Señor Menem, although when he campaigned for president he promised wage rises and a five-year moratorium on the foreign debt, which never materialised. Instead, he dismissed 400,000 government workers and raised taxes to pay the debt.

The son of Syrian immigrants who arrived in Argentina in the 1920s and made money through vineyards, Señor Menem, aged 61, was jailed for five years in 1976 when he opposed the military dictatorship that ruled Argentina until 1983.

His image is not completely untainted, however. Corruption scandals and cases of drug-money laundering, involving Señor Menem's close aides as well as relations of Zulema Yoma, his former wife, have often been aired.

White House drafts in woman speechwriter

Bush cuts short tour amid panic stations

FROM PETER STOTHARD, US EDITOR, IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Bush cut short his tour of Southern primary states yesterday after criticisms from his staff that he was appearing to be panicked by his challenger, Patrick Buchanan.

Yesterday he touched the ground in Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, delivering his standard "jobs-peace-family" speech and attempting to avoid questions about Mr Buchanan's views on race. In Washington, however, senior staff decided that the "mission without a message" was beginning to do more harm than good. The rest of the schedule was rubbed out.

The president is expected to leave the campaign trail today after a fishing tournament in Alabama and resume the activity which most differentiates him from his rival — governing the United States. Surrogates will take his place, led by Vice-President Quayle, who has landed the hardest hits on Mr Buchanan of the campaign so far.

Samuel Skinner, the White House chief of staff, responding to concern at the president's poor speeches, has shunted aside the head of the speechwriting staff, Tony Snow, and made room for the earlier than expected return of the former Reagan and Bush aide, Peggy Noonan. Mr Snow, who wrote a series of highly successful conservative speeches for the president last summer, was the object of considerable sympathy yesterday. "This is just a new version of shoot the messenger," said one Republican campaigner.

The president had once hoped to avoid calling again on Ms Noonan who, after her first retirement from the White House, wrote a vivid account of the madness at the heart of the Reagan presidency. The motto yesterday, however, was: "Needs must, if the devil drives". Mr Buchanan has attained diabolic status for the Bush-Quayle campaign, even though he may not win a single primary. Mr Bush needs Ms Noonan.

Today it is the turn of South Carolina voters to make their choice. President Bush is the strong favourite among one of the country's most loyalist Republican party organisations. But, as in Georgia, the primary rules allow so-called "cross-over voting" by which registered Democrats who want to harm the president can vote Republican for Mr Buchanan. The White House is anxious that its rival be kept well below his 36 per cent Georgia vote.

Protest demonstrations against Mr Buchanan may be growing. The challenger, who is on record for a number of unflattering remarks about black life and crime, has been largely ignored by black groups so far. But on Thursday in Oklahoma a black legislator made a much-publicised walkout from a formal speech by Mr Buchanan. More such moves are now expected.

On the Democratic side, Governor Bill Clinton of Arkansas is predicted to gain an easy win in South Carolina, largely because of his strong support from black voters. In a debate in Dallas on Thursday, the rival candidate, Jerry Brown, waved a photograph of Mr Clinton with black prisoners at a work camp and accused him of "looking like a colonial master". The Arkansas governor responded angrily, pointing out that the camp was an alternative to conventional prisons and a place where people can "get their lives back together".

Yesterday new unemployment figures gave a further boost to Democratic hopes of exploiting the president's weakness. The percentage of the workforce without jobs rose in February to 7.3 per cent, its highest level for more than six years.

Administration spokesmen pointed out that unemployment typically lags behind other indicators during a recovery, since businesses take time before feeling confident enough to hire workers. On the campaign through the South, that subtlety is likely to be lost.



Pioneer spirit: Patrick Buchanan, the Republican challenger to President Bush, evoking a Davy Crockett image in a rancoon-skin cap as he brandishes a flintlock at the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas, after a campaign rally yesterday

Tsongas tunes in to Texas blues

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN DALLAS

THE Ewing ranch where *Dallas* was filmed is no longer way out in the country. During the 1980s Dallas grew as fast as any city in America.

Drive north from the site of President Kennedy's assassination, past exclusive Highland Park, where Mark Thatcher lives, and it is now 25 miles before you reach a rim of half-finished housing and open fields, the post-modernist towers of downtown Dallas a tiny eruption on the horizon behind you.

These vast new expanses of north Dallas are inhabited by young baby-boom professionals attracted by high-technology jobs, people such as Don and Misty Brazelton from Washington DC who live in one of a sweep of modern ranch-style homes with lawns in front, pools in the back and burglar alarms all round.



Tsongas: out to ruin tradition of losing

They have always voted Republican, but this year a profound malaise afflicts suburbia. Dallas was the epicentre of the Savings and Loan scandal, the epitome of the irresponsible 1980s. Federal defence contracts are drying up and the area's hundreds of computer and electronics firms are all contracting. "Everyone knows someone who has lost their job," Mrs Brazelton said. President Bush has "no vision of where the country's going".

In the Texas presidential primary on Super Tuesday, the Brazeltons will lay aside their ingrained distrust of big-spending, business-bashing Democrats and vote for Paul Tsongas, who promises to bite the economic bullet. Bill Clinton looks certain to win next week's Democratic primary. Mr Tsongas, appropriately headquartered in a deserted Savings and Loan office block, has spent two weeks courting a state of 17 million people. He has opted to wage suburban guerrilla warfare in Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston, Austin and San Antonio, and in doing so is pointing up the rapidly developing debate within the Democratic party about its future direction and how best to exploit Republican disarray in the November 4 poll.

At a University of Dallas rally on Thursday, Mr Tsongas mocked Washington's party bigwigs who saw his pro-business platform as a threat. "A Democrat who can appeal to independents might win the White House," he said. "That would ruin our tradition of losing it. I say let's win, see what it feels like, and if we don't like it we can go back to losing again."

Banking on being cleared

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

THIS weekend, American congressmen will be waiting nervously to see if they are named publicly in the investigation into the House Bank, closed last autumn after it was found that it had been subsidising Capitol Hill for years by cashing cheques on long overdrawn accounts.

The bank's customers were limited to congressmen and their top staff members. The bank has been virtually protecting congressmen from the colds winds of recession.

The bank had no serious rules against overdrafts and congressmen happily exploited the bank's generosity. Over $10 million-worth of unsupported cheques were written by congressmen between July 1988 and October 1991, when the House Bank was closed down.

According to a five-month long enquiry by the House of Representatives ethics committee, nearly 20,000 bad cheques were written by congressmen between July 1988 and October 1991. Over 200 were at one time or another overdrawn by more than their next monthly salary and some were in the red to the bank by more than $100,000. Congressmen receive a salary of $129,500 a year.

In all, 355 current and former congressmen wrote cheques since July 1988 that were not supported by funds in their accounts.

Congress balks at cost of funding new world order

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

AFTER financing the Cold War for decades, the American Congress is balking at the cost of the "new world order".

Congressional subcommittees have told James Baker, the Secretary of State, that America's domestic needs are too great for a big increase in the US contribution to the United Nations' growing peacekeeping operations. They argue that the "peace dividend" from the collapse of the Soviet Union should be spent at home. The result could be that peacekeeping missions in Croatia and Cambodia could be short of funds.

Mr Baker has asked Congress for an additional $810 million (£470 million) in the State Department's 1992-93 budget, on top of the $107 million already appropriated for this year. In 1991, Congress approved $115 million for UN peacekeeping operations. "We have spent trillions of dollars to win the Cold War and we ought to be willing to spend millions of dollars to secure the peace," Mr Baker said this week during testimony on Capitol Hill. But legislators made it plain that he will have difficulty getting the funds he seeks.

With their constituents beset by economic woes, members of the House of Representatives and Senate budget subcommittees said they were under pressure to cut US spending overseas. Jim Sasser, the Tennessee Democrat who chairs the Senate budget panel, told Mr Baker it was becoming "politically irresistible" to cut US foreign aid.

Many congressmen and senators believe that UN peacekeeping should be paid for out of the Pentagon's defence budget, which is far larger than the foreign aid appropriation. But the White House insists that the money should come from the State Department budget.

In the short-run, it is likely that the administration will be able to let Congress off the hook by using about $200-300 million from State Department funds — not enough, however, to fulfil America's obligation to the UN. The United States is already about $172 million in arrears on its contribution to UN peacekeeping operations, and owes $565 million to the general UN budget.

The new funds are needed to mount vast UN peacekeeping missions in Croatia and Cambodia, as well as more modest exercises in El Salvador and Western Sahara. The Cambodia operation, in which a UN force will oversee the transition to democracy will cost $1.9 billion by the middle of next year — about three times the present UN peacekeeping budget. The deployment of a further 14,000 "blue berets" in three Serbian enclaves in Croatia is budgeted at an additional $634 million for the first year.

Sammy the Bull says he is really a rat

SALVATORE "Sammy the Bull" Gravano, the highest ranking Mafia defector in American history, finally said the R-word (James Bone writes from New York).

Under intense cross-examination at the trial of his former boss, Gravano — a self-confessed hit man with at least 19 murders to his name — admitted that he was, in mob parlance, a "rat". As he did so, his old friend John Gotti, the reputed head of America's largest crime family, scowled at him from across the courtroom.

Gravano's testimony, made in return for a reduced prison sentence of only 20 years, is the FBI's best chance of jailing Gotti, the "Teflon Don", for murder and racketeering after three unsuccessful prosecutions in six years.

In four days on the witness stand, Gravano has recounted how Gotti plotted the 1985 assassination of Paul Castellano, the former Godfather, and how he and Gotti watched the murder through the tinted windows of a big black limousine parked less than a block away.

Taiwanese traders see gold in stocks of rhino horn

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN KYOTO, JAPAN

Fewer than 11,000 rhinoceroses are left in the world, four species are threatened with extinction and evidence suggests that Taiwanese traders have started stockpiling rhino horn as an investment in the belief that the animal will soon die out.

An estimated 10 tonnes — the equivalent of 4,000 dead rhinos — are believed to be stored in Taiwan ready for trading once the species becomes extinct, according to a report by the World Wide Fund for Nature. "The Taiwanese have a fixation with rhino horn. They use it for medicinal purposes but now they are also buying as an investment, just like gold," Esmond Martin, a leading rhino conservation expert, said.

The Taiwanese have seen wholesale prices in African rhino horn rise from $30 (£17) a kilogramme in 1970 to $2,000 a kilo today. On the retail market, the Asian rhino horn, which is smaller and believed to be more potent, fetches about $50,000 a kilo.

Under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species, all five rhino species are listed in Appendix 1, which means that commercial trade in rhino horn and its by-products is prohibited. Zimbabwe and South Africa, claiming they each need $20 million a year to support effective anti-poaching programmes, have proposed that they should be allowed to export African rhino horn in limited quantities to enable them to meet the financial requirements of conservation.

They would like to set up rhino ranches to harvest the horn, which is a form of keratin and grows like a hair at the rate of 2in to 2.5in a year.

"South Africa wants to sell off its rhino horn stocks, which are worth $4 million, to bring in revenue for conservation. I oppossed the proposal because a resumption of legal trade will only perpetuate the market and jeopardise rhinos elsewhere, especially the Asian species. There are only 65 left of the rarest Javan species," Mr Martin said.

Thirty years ago there were 100,000 black rhinos in southern Africa. Now there are only 3,500, over half of which are in Zimbabwe where poaching is most serious. An average of three rhinos are lost in Zimbabwe every week.



Four species of rhino face extinction

PEOPLE

US army chief honours classmate

General Colin Powell, the Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, visited Fort Leavenworth to honour **Lieutenant-General Jose Charlier**, the chief of Belgium's general staff and a 1968 classmate at the Command and General Staff College. General Charlier was inducted into the colleges international officer hall of fame.

□

Lowering Norman seascapes and romantic scenes of Venice by the 19th century English painter **Richard Parkes Bonington** are drawing art lovers to an exhibition at the Petit Palais in Paris. Originally shown at the Yale Center for British Art, the exhibition comprises 150 drawings, etchings and paintings. Bonington, born in Nottingham in 1802, the son of an art teacher, went to France to study painting in 187.

□

The husband of "teacher-in-space" **Christa McAuliffe**, who was killed six years ago when the shuttle Challenger exploded, has married another teacher, **Steven McAuliffe**, president of the New Hampshire Bar Association, married **Kathy Thomas**, a reading teacher for the Concord school district.

□

The Queen is to pay an official visit to the European parliament in Strasbourg on May 12, the parliament's president, **Egon Klepsch**, has announced. She is the only European Community head of state never to have visited the parliament. **Margaret Thatcher** had always been against such a visit because she had no great respect for the parliament.

□

The main rivals to replace Austria's isolated **President Waldheim** have launched their campaigns to become head of state, a post nobody wanted six months ago. **Rudolf Streicher**, the transport and economy minister, from the majority Socialist party, opened his campaign with a call to clamp down on an upsurge of neo-Nazi activities in Austria. His main rival, diplomat **Thomas Klestil** from President Waldheim's People's party, called for an end to political radicalism

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Clifford Longley

Law is a human construct, but morality is not

The judgment made by the Irish Supreme Court on Thursday meant that under Irish law, abortion should be available on demand, said the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children after the case. It was a result almost nobody was expecting, suddenly turning the whole debate on its head.

What began as tragedy and quickly decayed to melodrama has therefore ended virtually in black farce. Since the Irish Supreme Court has so cleverly confounded critics on every side, it is time to sympathise with the "arch villains of the piece" in some Irish eyes — the Irish Roman Catholic bishops. It was they who promoted the amendment to the Irish constitution to give equal legal weight to the life of a pregnant woman and the life of a foetus. But it is certain they did not intend the amendment to prevent a pregnant woman leaving Irish jurisdiction in pursuit of an abortion, which is how it was interpreted.

It is also certain that they did not intend the amendment to allow abortion when there was a "reasonable and substantial risk" to the life of the pregnant woman because of the likelihood of her attempting suicide — which is what the Supreme Court has now said it means. As they foresaw and desired neither outcome, why should the bishops be blamed (or indeed praised) for either? It is those who rant at them who look foolish.

Yet there is a better reason still for sympathising with the unloved Irish bishops. Their moral and legal dilemma is far from being some extraordinary convolution peculiar to "frenzied papists" (as the inscription on the London Monument used to describe Roman Catholics). Theirs is the predicament of all upright democrats when it comes to legislation.

The law cannot avoid making moral judgments, at least implicitly. Criminal law does it all the time. Those who make the laws can never act independently of a system of moral philosophy, whether they like it or know it or not. The assumption that law and morality are different things which ought to have nothing to do with one another, is one of the great simplistic fallacies of the age — another being that they are identical.

Law exists to regulate and sometimes restrict human behaviour. Where laws are necessary and where they are not can be determined only by reasoning from moral principles. Even choosing to have no law at all against abortion (or against murder or theft, or having no speed limits on roads) would be a moral decision.

Just as controversial is the proposition that the majority of the Irish people should not, in their approach to law-making, draw guidance from the moral system they believe in, and that they should turn instead to some other system they do not believe in. That would be hypocritical and democratically daft. Secular societies certainly insist on basing legislation on majority values.

Neither the Irish nor the English can — or should — set aside their majority beliefs when they make their laws. But a democratic society needs to recognise that the maintenance of a measured distance between morality and law (while honouring both) is itself healthy. Morality and law serve different ends. Law can admit of compromise when morality cannot, and vice versa. Or they may compromise differently, having different objectives in view. Where they can diverge, it is often best that they should. And if God gave humans free will, it makes sense that law in human society should as far as possible make room for them to exercise that freedom, even if they choose badly.

The existence of a marginal zone, where one can be on the wrong side of morality but still on the right side of the law, is a necessity if human societies are to be free societies. All would put lying in that zone (except perjury or fraud); most would add adultery; some, homosexuality or drug-taking; and some, within limits, abortion. Whatever the judgment about specifics, however, all societies need that safety zone. It is the cushion that prevents minority deviance from colliding with majority bigotry.

Ultimately, law is a human artefact, but morality is not. Hence there is an even greater danger in blurring the distinction between morality and law, for in that case, law takes over completely and morality is eclipsed. The scarcely moral notion that whatever is legal is therefore moral may yet linger a while. But after a slash or two from Occam's Razor, all that is left is the commandment which drives out all others: "Thou shalt not be found out." The Irish bishops would surely not want to be blamed for that too.

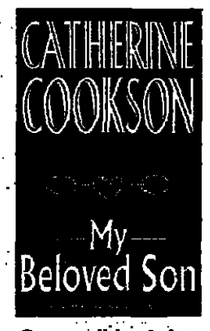
Raphael Samuel says public libraries are national assets which *The Times* is wrong to denigrate

In defence of potboilers

Public libraries, have been the focus of philanthropic effort and civic and municipal enthusiasm, ever since the first was established in Bristol in 1464. They are a cause which *The Times* might have been expected to support.

Not so, judging by an editorial which questioned the rationale of the library service. Books, it said, are being offered free of charge "for no better reason than historical precedent". Too much money is being spent on staff, and the libraries are undercutting booksellers. The public is only interested in thrillers, Catherine Cookson and Agatha Christie. "The borrowers are reading for entertainment", the editorial comments, severely, "not edification."

Would librarians serve their public better if they automatically disqualified any author with a mass readership, and replaced the family sagas of Catherine Cookson with more highbrow exercises in historical romance? If they did so, would they not open themselves up to the charge of subsidising minority tastes on the rates? If libraries were to rule "entertainment" out of court and used "edification" — chill word — as the touchstone of worth, not much imaginative literature would remain. Fairy stories might survive in the children's library, on the grounds that they are morally improving, but hardly such favourites as *Alice in Wonderland* or Edward Lear. Science fiction might be disqualified on grounds of fantasy and excess, the Gothic novel (including *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*) for sensationalism. If thrillers had to go, as the editorial implied, *Oliver Twist* and *Bleak House* would be at risk. Drama would need to be purged of its frivolities. Even history might not be safe if it set out to record, in the manner of Gibbon, the "crimes, follies and misfortunes of mankind" rather than the record of progress and improvement.



Great tradition: heir to Dickens and Bronte?

Anxieties about the popular have, of course, an ancient lineage. Lord Quinton's remarks in "Why Britain needs its shelf life" (*The Times*, February 26) about videotapes echo the alarm expressed about gramophone records in the 1930s, about library experiments with magic-lantern shows in the 1900s, and about the appearance of the halfpenny evening newspapers in the 1890s (when the more officious librarians tried to black out the betting news). Likewise, the editorial mirrors the complaint of a Manchester library committee which in 1857 could "no longer disguise the fact" that the young men taking out their books were "reading for mere pastime, not for intellectual improvement".

Contempt for novel-reading, regarded as an especially female vice, is as old as the novel itself. The matter was highly controversial in the 19th century, when strenuous efforts were made to exclude the works of Walter Scott from the Mechanics Institutes, and novel-reading was banned in many an Evangelical home. Statistical surveys of the poor routinely treated novel-reading as second cousin to atheism and the drink, while "servant girl" literature (the Mills & Boon of the 1860s) was thought to be corrupting working-class womanhood.

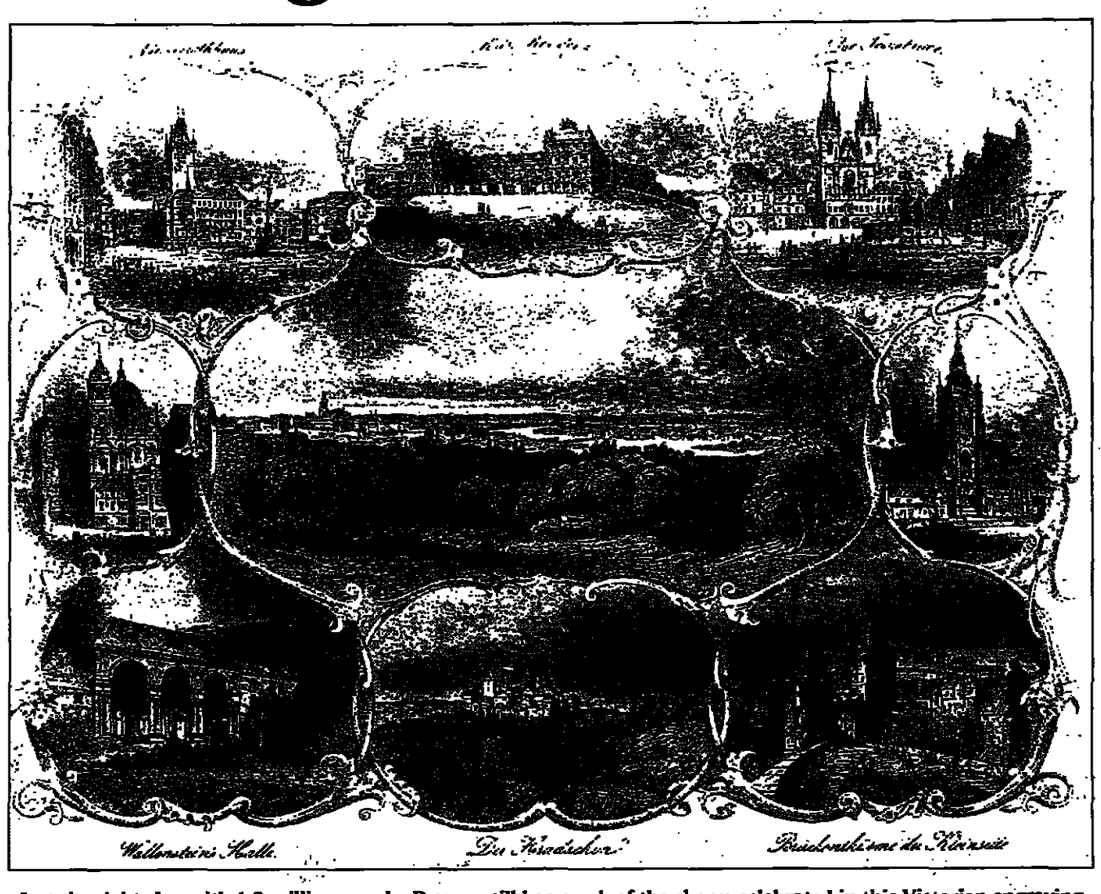
Arguments about the morally damaging effects of "sensational" and "sentimental" fiction were very much to the fore when the Free Library question was debated in the public press, as it was most angrily for some 60 years after the passage of the Public Library Act of 1850. A typical complaint, published by *The Evening Standard* in January 1891, was that the libraries were monopolised by "loafing office boys or clerks . . . using their masters' time for devouring all the most trivial trash they could get". Public libraries have flourished where others — such as those of the Sunday schools and the Mechanics' Institute — faded. Public libraries have thrived because they have given readers what they want and have kept abreast of the new. They have allowed job-hunters to haunt the newspaper room and local historians the census returns, without insisting that they read Ruskin first. They have provided the classics without making a religion of "good" books, or a demonology of bad ones, and indeed what George Orwell once called "good bad books" may be said to have been a staple fare.

If the public libraries are to be defended, it should be by reference not to what they were, in some fond imaginary past when "books of the hour" and bestsellers were unknown, but rather to what they most vigorously are in the present, videotapes and all: growing points in our national culture.

The author is tutor in history at Ruskin College, Oxford and an editor of History Workshop Journal.

How big should a city be?

Labour this week deplored the shrinking of London. Nonsense, says Peter Millar, small is best


Just the right size: with 1.2 million people, Prague still has much of the charm celebrated in this Victorian engraving

It was, naturally, a great romantic who put the boot in. When Shelley wrote "Hell is a city much like *London, a populous and smoky* city", he was not so much condemning London as damning Hell. The English ideal of a house in town and a home in the country is based on the instinctive premise that cities are pestilential places to live. Yet for quarter of a millennium, the drift from the land to cities has been constant all across Europe.

Some cities are much more pleasant to live in than others. Prejudices, from local patriotism to climatic preferences, come into play, but one may also ask whether there is an optimum size for a city? The European experience suggests that there is.

Anyone who has sauntered through Munich's bustling Viktualienmarkt — particularly during the pre-Lenten Fasching carnival, when costumed stallholders dance in the streets — and has then window-shopped down exclusive Maximilianstrasse before going on for tea in the Englischer Garten (all on foot) has savoured the delights of the medium-sized city.

The ideal population — a rule to be broken — hovers just above the million mark. The simplest success stories are the capitals of small countries, often the regional capitals of now defunct amorphous empires. Prime among these are the pride of the Habsburgs: Budapest (2 million), Vienna (1.7 million) and Prague (1.2 million). On the same tier are cities which either survived as flag-bearers of the renaissance city-state or were the capitals of principalities or small kingdoms until the great national homogenisations of the late 19th century: Munich (1.3 million), Hamburg, (1.6 million), Turin (1.1 million), Naples (1.2 million), Milan (1.6 million), Barcelona (1.7 million).

Each has an identifiable, user-friendly and compact city centre, with important public buildings on a human scale and within acceptable travelling time from the outer edges of the respective conurbations. In short, they have a heart that functions and access to it which does not strain the arteries. The luckiest, by virtue of their secondary importance, have had the advantage of keeping some distance from both historical cataclysms and grandiose architectural schemes. As a result they have preserved their history and civic identity. The bombed German cities are notable exceptions, but most of them took exaggerated care over reconstructions which placed the citizen at the heart of the city.

Even Vienna, massively out of proportion with tiny Austria and ravaged more by the pompous architects of the declining Habsburg years than by the invading Russian tanks in 1945, has preserved the nucleus of its medieval city. The streets around the glorious Gothic Legoland extravaganza of St Stephen's Cathedral mix the urban amenities of cafés, shops and restaurants with an ease the modern metropolis cannot match. Budapest, similarly outsized in the context of modern Hungary, has benefited from a history which gave it grandeur but stopped short of congestion.

The size of the ideal city has varied down the ages, but it has probably always borne the same proportional relationship to the population as a whole. In other words, the degree of gregariousness with which we feel comfortable depends upon the density of the generation into which we are born. I am talking, of course, only about confessed urbanites: there will always be hermit souls who feel crowded walking the dog on an empty beach.

Each of the biggest cities in Europe — London, Paris, Moscow — is the product of a global empire which at its peak required a capital incorporating a vast administrative centre and a symbolic focal point for that empire: Piccadilly Circus, the Champs-Elysées, Red Square. Like magnets in a bin of iron filings, these cities' power of attraction became their own worst enemy; they grew to imperial proportions, and consequently dwarfed their inhabitants. In retrospect, the also-rans — Berlin, Rome, Madrid — were slightly luckier, if only because the cities peaked before or after the empires.

At the other end of the spectrum is the small, ugly city, neither fish nor fowl, little more than a large town complete with provincial attitudes, Peyton Place politics and all the cultural and culinary excitement of a night out in Leeds. The worst of these are the largest, those with corporate egos grown too big for their boots. Prime among them are Manchester and Frankfurt: the one has its Olympic bid and prestige projects dumped upon a moribund municipal identity; the other has sold its soul to alien financiers, who lend the city the product of their waking hours but keep their souls elsewhere.

But nor is it necessary for a city to boast as many as a million people. There are tiny cities which meet the social target while falling short of that threshold: notably old university cities such as Oxford, Cambridge and Heidelberg. But then these already contain the bright young people who will make the capital cities worth living in. There are also those which make the million mark but have lost their souls, such as Marseille, where La Canebière, the city's main street, resembles an Algerian souk which has, through excessive immigration, become a cauldron of racial tension.

The ideal city is a more fragile organism than we might imagine; it cannot — witness Milton Keynes — be designed. If, as the proponents of "l'Europe des regions" tell us, society is being rearranged outside the mould of the nation state, then perhaps it is time to look again at the success stories of second cities.

None of this, however, tells us what to do about London — unless it is to start a campaign to save the dinosaur.



...and moreover

Philip Howard

For this relief much thanks, at last, when this election is over and we can get back to real life. The campaign seems to have been going on for a year. Every day, each political party feels obliged to call a no-news conference to dry-launch not-quite-new policies with no new money on every topic from *dancing to car boot sales*. Our politics have fallen into the hands of the spin-doctors and media manipulators, with their sound-bites and photo opportunities timed for the television news throughout the day.

In this as in many parts of our life and language, we are following in the footsteps of the Americans. It was for their last presidential election, in 1989, that the Americans perfected the notion of a 30-second sound-bite for subliminal messages by TV spot or in reply to telephone calls. I think they underestimate the attention span of their captive audience. Indeed, we are much distracted in our age of electronic images and instant sensations. The days have gone when politicians on the stump or whistlestop tour were expected to sound off for an hour or more, scarcely drawing breath, like Gladstone in the Midlothian campaign.

There was not much else in the way of entertainment in the villages and backwoods then, and people were happy to listen to a public figure grinding on. As Macaulay said of Gladstone: "He has one gift most dangerous to a spectator, a vast command of a kind of language, grave and majestic, but of vague and uncertain import."

We could not cope with Gladstone today, and certainly not with the first Lord Brougham, who holds the record for speaking continuously in both the Commons and the Lords. He banged on for six hours in the Commons on law reform in 1828, in a speech that occupied 12 columns of the next morning's *Times*. Two years later, after elevation to the Lords, he spoke for six hours again, this time on the second reading of the Reform Bill, "fortified by three tumblers of spiced wine". In those days, there were giants in the land. But life has become too busy for gigantic oratory. Nevertheless, I should warm to a bit more of what George Bush calls "the vision thing" from our politicians, instead of petty accountancy about taxes and polls.

The sound-bite came into the language from the entertainment industry in 1989. Here is the defining quotation, identifiably in *Time*-Speak: "You have just been massaged, pummelled — and maybe *had* — by some savvy movie publicists, the spin-doctors of the entertainment industry. They operate in the slick new tradition of political handlers, whose job is to reduce a campaign to photo ops and sound-bites, keep their candidates away from rancorous reporters and try, ever so discreetly, to manage the news."

A photo op, an event arranged for photographs and publicity, especially of politicians, came into the language at the same election, and has now become part of British political and newspaper jargon. There was a cartoon in a Georgia paper in the autumn of 1989 showing a store manager addressing a line of children queuing to see Santa Claus: "Now remember, children. Santa and his elves are very busy. So this is a photo op with a ten-second sound-bite for each of you."

Proper journalists and snappers should resist being manipulated by PR experts intent on, ever so discreetly, managing the news. By definition, a photo op or press conference called by a political party in the phoney war before the election campaign proper, is a non-news event. The brave thing to do would be to ignore it. Not many of us are as brave as that, for fear of missing something good that the rest of the ratpack gets. But we should watch and report such non-events with narrowed eyes.

The fault lies not in the medium of sound-bites and photo ops, but in the absence of message from our grey and dull politicians. The giants of the past were good at sound-bites as well as six-hour speeches, because they had something visionary to say. The first sound-bite to travel by telegraph was Abraham Lincoln's: "A house divided against itself cannot stand." Disraeli sound-bit Gladstone: "He has not a single redeeming defect." What our politicians need is fewer media consultants and more wit.

Soup kitchens in Red Square

THE Salvation Army will soon be marching in Red Square for the first time since the organisation was banned from the Soviet Union nearly 70 years ago. At the end of this month General Eva Burrows, the leader of the Army, will fly from London for a ceremony to mark its official recognition in Moscow. She will leave in charge of the Sally Army's Moscow forces one Captain Sven-Eric Ljungholm, who has given up his lucrative airline-company job to take up a cause that runs in his family's blood.

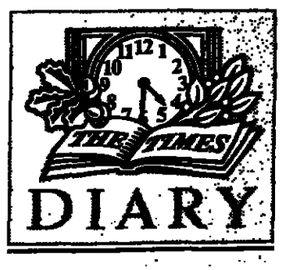
His grandfather was one of the Army's pioneers in the Soviet Union: when Captain Ljungholm arrived in Moscow last year to prepare for the return, he read the very address his grandfather gave in 1918; at the first march in St Petersburg last July, he carried his grandfather's flag.

Otto Ljungholm's diary of the time was left to his grandson in 1958. "When I received it I thought I would never come here," says the captain "Now everything has come alive." The diary records how the Army infiltrated the Soviet Union "by holy subterfuge . . . a samovar with accompanying teacups was always conspicuously in evidence because meetings of over ten were banned". But soon after arriving in the country, the Army fell under suspicion and members were regularly arrested on the street.

After five years of harassment, Ljungholm's grandparents were forced to leave. "One day in the middle of the night, the red guards burst into my grandfather's house. They confiscated the official records and that was the end of the Salvation Army in Russia."

Now the Army is campaigning vigorously again: religious services are attended by more than 600 Russians and 5,000 free meals are distributed every day. "We're going to run out of food in three weeks' time," says Captain Ljungholm. "I have little time to think of the past." Yesterday he was summoned to the office of the president, Boris Yeltsin, to hear a plea for more babyfood. After a break of 69 years and two generations, it was once again a Ljungholm who relayed the appeal to the West.

● *The producer of a BBC film currently being made on racism in the police has been accused of discrimination — against meat. Gordon Newman has written to his crew stating that since the film is all about oppression and exploitation, it must not prove "exploitative in the making" and therefore only vegan or vegetarian food will be served on location. "Believing that the exploitation of one species paves the way for the exploitation of all others, the location caterers are cordon vert," he says, adding that he expects "only compliments on the food". He may be disappointed. Several carnivorous members of the crew have already said that they consider being forced to chew their way through a mound of culinarily correct lentils to be an act of oppression.*



The Magic Synth?

THE COLISEUM'S latest project will send a thrill of horror through traditional opera lovers: acid house at the opera house.

Next week ENO launches a competition inviting musicians under 30 to realise their own ideas of opera, using whatever musical style they want. Entries are expected to include every variant of pop music from punk rock to rap and acid house. The Coliseum is preparing to accommodate synthesisers, electric guitars, drums and any explosive devices that may be necessary. The winning entries will be staged in October.

A spokesman for ENO says: "Of course the results may be deafening and completely incomprehensible." The Coliseum, where



opera is sung in English, does not usually need to provide translations: this time it may have to make an exception.

Mass age massage

STRESS at work costs industry an estimated £7 billion a year, and two recently-redundant advertising executives are capitalising on it by setting up a mobile massage unit to attend to the victims of recession-related tension.

After returning from a skiing holiday last year, Jane Scrivner discovered that her job was no more. She promptly gave up smoothing out the wrinkles in her advertising copy, and turned her attention to the knots in the necks of her erstwhile colleagues. Penelope Lee, her colleague in the new venture — christened Self Centre — says: "We get a lot of people who giggle, but the people who try us out think it's very soothing." Coming soon: manicures for nail-biters and coiffure for hair-pullers?

New angle on Anglia

NOVELIST Pat Barker, who knows better than most what a scriptwriter can do to a treasured tale, has nothing but sympathy for Graham Swift, whose novel *Waterland* has been made into a film due for release in the autumn.

Waterland, which was shortlisted for the Booker prize in 1983, takes place in the English fenlands. The film, however, is partly set in Pittsburgh — a shift which even the publicist admits is a blatant attempt to catch the attention of the American public. The film stars the lugubrious Jeremy Irons as Tom Crick, the history teacher who tells a class of American children about his childhood.

"I just h pe he won't mind too much when he sees the result," says Barker. Her own book *Union Street*, about a group of women in Middlesbrough, was released as a film by MGM last year. Robert de Niro played the lead role and the action took place entirely in Boston. The central female character, a tubby housewife, was transformed into a svelte Jane Fonda.

"Everything that was faithful to the book was left on the cutting room floor," she says.

LOTTERY MULTIPLICATION

The home secretary's announcement of a national lottery yesterday was undisguised electioneering. Kenneth Baker was suggesting a gusher of cash for the arts, sports and charities without incurring the immediate displeasure of his Treasury colleagues. He surely deserves a finer memorial to his home secretaryship than this crude piece of gambling nationalisation, hurriedly devised for the election campaign.

The role of lotteries in liberating loose coins from pockets and purses in favour of worthy causes is superficially obvious. Punters get a thrill, win or lose. A tiny few are instantly made rich; good causes also profit. There is already an incalculable mass of fund-raising dependent on gambling, from existing legal (small) lotteries to tombola and bingo. Mr Baker's wishes to boost this by some £1 billion.

But to achieve this, Mr Baker is demonstrating the occupational disease of the democratic politician. As he waved his pound notes yesterday, he wanted all the credit that comes from such charity being seen as government-inspired. He did not do all that was needed to achieve what the charities want, an uplift in the existing upper limit on lottery prize money of £12,000. Instead he has asked the Tory party to lay aside some of its soundest principles and create, out of nothing, both a new nationalised industry and a monopoly protected by statute. If lotteries there are to be, then let there be lotteries, but not just one national and state-run lottery.

Mr Baker gives assurances that grants from his lottery will make no difference to public funding of the arts and charities. But how can anything he says now, in a pre-election white paper, dictate the outcome of a funding negotiation between, say, an arts minister and a Treasury minister in two years time?

In reacting to the scheme yesterday, the Liberal Democrats home affairs spokesman, Robert Maclennan, declared: "Is it not perverse that this Government of all governments should be involved in nationalising gambling?" Football pools already take care of most of the needs a national lottery is supposed to meet: they have given away £30 million in six months through industry's Foundation for Sport and the Arts.

Mr Maclennan might have gone further in his 19th-century economic liberalism. He should have advocated that government do what it is fit for, in this case confining itself to preventing fraud. Few activities are more appropriate than gambling to the *laissez-faire* of the market place: the prize must be sufficient to induce the punt.

Big lotteries have to be licensed and policed. To make sure that they covered the cost of their own policing, a lotteries authority would have to be set up, charging for registration each year. The small lotteries run under the 1976 Lotteries and Amusements Act would continue to enjoy their tax-free privileges and a laxer inspection regime.

It is not appropriate for government to declare an interest in how many lotteries there are, big or small, nor how big or often the prizes should be, nor even how any funds are to be distributed for the public benefit. But — seeing in existence a profitable new branch of the entertainments industry — the government should make sure the lottery industry is properly taxed.

The British position has been inconsistent ever since Ernie and Premium Bonds introduced the concept of public expenditure financed from gambling, albeit gambling with interest. The limit on private lottery prizes reflected the 19th-century belief that lotteries in principle were bad for public morals. Mr Baker's enactment of a law to allow just one national lottery is in principle identical to enacting a law to ban all other big lotteries but his own. Why ban them? Mr Baker has failed to show why the law should restrict a commercial activity no longer deemed harmful, simply to enhance the profits of a state monopoly. Is this Toryism?

END OF PESSIMISM

Rare is the book that captures the mood of an age. Even rarer is one that does so by grappling not with slim white thighs, success in business or Provençal escapism but with the ideas of history and philosophy. Francis Fukuyama's *End of History and the Last Man* has commanded attention with not one but two controversial theses. The first is that the cynically relativist politics of the 1980s were misplaced: liberal democracy and capitalism have at last become humanity's common goal, however distantly perceived. The second is that this goal is none the less unlikely to satisfy the human spirit in its search for personal identity. Indeed democracy's egalitarianism towards individuals and groups may even undermine this search.

The current general election campaign may not be the most stupid on record, but it bids fair to be the most intellectually vacuous. It is nowadays near impossible to fill a hall for a political debate. Yet 1,000 *Times*' readers packed London's Institute of Education on Thursday to hear Mr Fukuyama's theses debated. The concepts discussed, from left and right, would scarce cross the lips of modern politicians, so risk-averse have they become. In Britain as in America, possible conflicts of "vision" are too dangerous for ordinary politicians. They may make waffly attempts at product differentiation, Labour from Conservative from Liberal Democrat, but with none of Mr Fukuyama's clarity.

The Prince of Wales recently dared politicians to use the word "soul" in ordinary discourse. He implied that they lacked the guts to plunge into the metaphysical deep end at the risk of ridicule. Mr Fukuyama does the same. Working in the planning section of the State Department in Washington, he found the bland pessimism of the Kissinger, Schultz and Baker years intolerable. Men so blinkered or so busy could not raise their eyes from the trees of diplomacy and see the wood for what it was. Why endanger a reputation with that most terrible of intellectual gambles, a controversial world view?

Yet was not communism brain dead long before the fall of the Berlin Wall, as was the fake socialism of China, India, Africa and Latin America? Are not all peoples now striving after the human rights and political institutions implied by Western liberal democracy? Are they not yearning for the material prosperity derived most effectively from entrepreneurship and private capital accumulation? Of course there are those who are far from this state of grace, those at the rear of Mr Fukuyama's "wagon train wending its way towards town".

In the Far East, in much of Africa, in most Muslim states, liberalism remains a pipedream. Nationalism, even national socialism, retains its potency. The clash of ideologies may have been replaced by Mr Fukuyama's clash of cultures, but the clash can be just as bloody. The "end of history" may yet prove to be no more than the beginning of geography.

We should not confuse the transitional from the permanent. Mr Fukuyama challenges the cynics to put their passing agonies — in Azerbaijan, in Yugoslavia, in the Levant, in Burma — in the scales against his evidence of progress. He demands of political leaders the will to take sides and to win, and when they have won, to define their victory. Having defined victory, they must then have the courage to describe new challenges.

When the threat of global strife is over, what new peaks will men and women find to conquer? Or will they all die of boredom? Neibuhr worried that supposedly "moral" individuals could have created the "immoral" societies of the early 20th century. Now that society has become "moral", many individuals find recourse in immorality. Is nihilism the black hole into which liberal democracy must eventually disappear?

The newspaper, the television, the speech, the pamphlet, all have their place in the dissemination of ideas. But is there anything better than a good book to set the world thinking?

GROUND ARMS!

The ceremonial and public duties of the army must be reduced. The report from the House of Commons Defence Committee published yesterday expresses surprise that the review of these ceremonial commitments is being set in motion only now, after numbers have been fixed by the *Options for Change* process. This seems to MPs to be putting the cart before the Horse Guards.

Of the army's four routine daily public duties in London, the most vulnerable to the unceremonial axe is by far the oldest, the Tower of London Guard. Every day an officer and 15 men of the Guards battalion on duty mount guard at the Tower, which is still nominally an unoccupied royal palace, but in practice the most tourist-frequented historic building in the land. Every night when the gates are locked they assist with the Ceremony of the Keys. This quaint ritual has continued uninterrupted for 700 years. It is watched by around 35,000 tourists and ceremonial buffs a year, without charge. It thus creates the traditional pageantry for which Britain is famous.

Everything British has a "dignified" and an efficient aspect. In the army as elsewhere the aspects get confused. So guards are changed and colours trooped in parades that go back to Marlborough. Guardsmen wear scarlet to disguise the demoralising colour of their blood, and bearskins to overwhelm the enemy by their height. But they carry modern rifles that are hopeless for presenting arms, in order to maintain the absurdity that the (unloaded) guns might be needed.

When the Queen or her Tower need defending, the job is done by hard-faced men in suits with bulges about their persons. One way out of the expensive confusion would be to cut the sabretache knot, and separate the ceremonial from the efficient. For ceremonial purposes, in order to dilute the crowds, the guard could be changed at least twice a day, in splendid uniforms and with inefficient rifles that slapped into the drill with a satisfying rattle and puff of whiting.

No hard feelings to the great British soldier, but does the daily round of tourist ceremonial really have to be done by men expensively trained for fighting? Are there no unemployed members of Equity? Civilians love dressing up in antique costumes, from the Sealed Knot and the Ermine Street Guard to Freemasons and Pikemen of the Honourable Artillery Company. Such groups do service already at state occasions and banquets, as service bandsmen are available for hire to the private sector.

The weight of ceremonial weighs like an Alp upon the British brain. The separation of ceremonial from functional appears too radical for the army. It can argue that its expensive bands, bagpipes and parades, harking back to the enchantments of the Napoleonic wars, still have their place in military morale. So be it, and London would be a duller place without the clatter of the Guards and the horsemen. But in deciding the shape of the British army, ceremonial should have nothing to do with the sums. It may bring tears to the eyes of the old and bold, and a swagger to the stride of recruits. But it has no place in a defence white paper.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Enquiry plea over Cyril Burt 'fraud'

From Dr C. B. Goodhart

Sir, In March 1980, the British Psychological Society (BPS) organised a special symposium "to assess the impact of [Sir Cyril] Burt's falsifications, which should be seen in the wider context of scientific method in psychology", taking it for granted that allegations of academic fraud in the late Sir Cyril Burt's work had been proved. And this was received with acclamation.

Recently, however, two books have appeared (*The Burt Affair*, R. B. Joynson, 1989, and *Science, Ideology and the Media*, R. Fletcher, 1991) which raise serious doubts about the allegations of fraud, making what is surely a strong *prima facie* case for them to be re-investigated.

But the BPS has now refused requests to call for a formal enquiry, on the ground that "individuals should make up their own minds" (report, "Academic mystery unsolved", February 26). That isn't good enough.

Especially in training colleges and education generally, the condemnation of Burt's unfashionable views on the heritability of intelligence, and the need therefore for selective schooling, is now widely accepted as politically correct, and few individuals are going to take the trouble to look at the evidence again for themselves. Most will assume that the BPS got it right in 1980, unless there is now an equally public retraction.

The BPS, which is very much *parti pris*, could anyway not be expected to undertake a truly impartial enquiry. That would be better done by the British Academy, which should have a proper interest in seeing whether serious injustice has been done to the posthumous reputation of one of their more distinguished Fellows.

Yours etc.,
C. B. GOODHART,
Gonville and Caius College,
Cambridge.
February 28.

Care of addicts

From Dr Robin Moffat

Sir, Dr John Strang (letter, February 25) says that if police surgeons were to refuse to continue treatment for drug misuse, it would create "a two-tier system of health care". This is quite incorrect. No physician would withhold an anti-convulsant from an epileptic or refuse insulin for a diabetic.

Addicts are invariably dependent upon alcohol, marijuana and tobacco as well as their prescribed medication. Most of them accept the advice of police surgeons when all unnecessary drugs are stopped during custody. Frank withdrawal symptoms are rarely disabling and are usually self-limiting after the intake of food and drink.

The true medical needs of prisoners are always met by police surgeons, but it is an unhappy fact-of-life that addicts manipulate gullible doctors. To replace one dangerous form of addiction by another which may lead to further criminal acts must be the height of clinical irresponsibility and in itself could be construed as medical malpractice.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN MOFFAT
(Senior forensic medical examiner,
Metropolitan Police Service),
10 Harley Street, W1.

No Carey doubts

From the Bishop of Salisbury

Sir, Your readers, being the perceptive people they are, will not have taken long to notice one salient feature of your article about the Archbishop of Canterbury (March 5): This is simply that the notes of doom and doubt which pervade it are not borne out by any of the direct quotes from Dr Carey himself, which are as always realistic, Christian and positive.

The forebodings are the contribution of the writer, the headlines and your front-page trailer. Those who have the privilege of working with George Carey in the leadership of the Church have no doubts that he can cope and that he will.

Yours faithfully,
†JOHN SARUM,
South Canonry, 71 The Close,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.
March 5.

Risk of rabies in Britain 'overplayed'

From Mr Colin Laurie McKelvie

Sir, Any hint of a slackening of the strict rabies quarantine laws of Britain and Ireland (report, "Pets may be given European passports", March 3) is almost guaranteed to elicit some frenzied opposition. This may owe more to vested interests and latent xenophobia than to any significant risk of hydrophobia.

Although rabies killed 173 people in England and Wales alone in the 15 years prior to 1903, it has been absent from the United Kingdom for about 70 years, and is now exceedingly rare in continental Europe.

There have been fewer than 30 cases of rabies in humans in Europe since 1980, and not a single death from it in EC countries in that period — this despite the much publicised westward spread of endemic rabies among wild animals, from Russia in the 1940s to the hinterland of the Channel ports in the 1980s. Almost all rabies victims in Europe have been infected abroad, usually by animal bites in Africa or Asia.

The red fox is the chief vector of rabies, and large areas of Switzerland and Germany have recently been cleared of the disease following the scattering of meat baits laced with anti-rabies serum for foxes to eat. Shrill prophecies of massive disruption of British pet ownership and country life are unfounded: our EC neighbours continue with normal life and sport, inoculating their pets and taking simple precautions. Mainland Europe is demonstrably not a continent of muzzled dogs, caged cats and a terrified populace.

Although horses are susceptible to rabies, they are exempt from quarantine when entering Britain, and this may be an eloquent comment on the power of our racing and bloodstock lobby. Yet an estimated £4 million is paid annually to veterinary surgeons, quarantine kennels and catteries which handle some 8,000 cats and dogs brought to the UK each year, and the loss of this revenue might put many out of business.

These vested interests may therefore be expected to play upon irrational fears of a disease that is a convenient metaphor for all that is "nasty and foreign". Shakespeare's John of Gaunt praised the "silver sea" as a *cordon sanitaire*, this island's protection against the "infection . . . of less happier lands".

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
COLIN LAURIE McKELVIE.
Tundergarth House,
Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire.

From Mr R. A. Bye

Sir, I was delighted to read that there is now a possibility of European passports for our two adopted stray cats. As frequent visitors to France, where we have a house, we would be quite happy to pay for vaccinations, microchip implants and passports that would enable us to take our pets with us on holiday.

Like many others, we would not dream of bringing an animal into the UK that could infect other animals with rabies. Instead we leave them caged-up in a cattery. How much more civilised, for a nation of animal lovers, it would be to enable them to travel with their owners without risk to other pets or humans.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN BYE,
St Dunstan's Abbey,
North Road West,
Plymouth, Devon.

Mahogany ban

From the Chairman of the Art Trade Liaison Committee and others

Sir, A UK-backed proposal on the agenda of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) conference, now taking place in Kyoto, would add American mahogany to the convention's list of endangered species.

By the same token the European Community has issued a draft regulation which would prohibit any form of commercial trade in items containing such species unless detailed evidence of the origin of each individual item can be supplied to the government enabling it to issue the appropriate certificate.

We are fully aware of the appalling destruction of rainforests which has occurred and support any realistic efforts to prevent this from continuing, whilst noting that only 10 per cent of the timber extracted actually enters the international market. However, the combined effect of these two misguided legal restrictions will provide a bureaucratic paperchase of nightmare proportions.

Not only would it be impossible to identify whether pieces of antique furniture contain the exact subspecies of mahogany selected by CITES, we also predict that trade in a wide range of antique items, created long before any of us were aware of environmental issues, will be seriously harmed.

So will be the individual's freedom to sell legally acquired possessions as he or she chooses.

Yours faithfully,
CHARLES B. LEE, Chairman,
Art Trade Liaison Committee,
PAUL WHITFIELD (Bonhams),
RAYMOND O'SHEA (British Antique Dealers' Association),
ANTHONY BROWNE (Christie's),
NICHOLAS SOMERS (Incorporated Society of Valuers and Auctioneers),
DERWENT (London and Provincial Antique Dealers' Association),
CHRISTOPHER WESTON (Phillips),
JOHN PARTRIDGE (Society of London Art Dealers),
TIMOTHY D. LLEWELLYN (Sotheby's Europe).
20 Rutland Gate, SW7.
March 5.

Doctor's dilemma

From Miss A. O. Mansfield

Sir, Your leader (March 2) was hurtful to those of us who enjoy our work, who recommend it to the young, who are concerned for the well-being of the trainees and most of all concerned to give the best possible care to our patients.

The "sweated labour of hospital training" could undoubtedly be improved and many of us have sought diligently to provide phlebotomists (to take routine blood samples), clerical assistants (to ease the administrative load), and to regulate the hours of work to those compatible with patient care, training and experience, a balance of trainee numbers to available posts for the trained, and the maintenance of life outside of work.

Minor surgery is only minor to the media and it is of tremendous importance that it is done well. There is no reason why a well-trained general practitioner should not undertake it; but where does he or she obtain that training — in the much maligned "sweated labour"? We have also to train the young surgeons and the starting point is supervised minor surgery.

Perhaps the most hurtful of all was the statement that we wished to limit the number of consultants for reasons of prestige and income. The Royal Colleges and the speciality associations have consistently urged expansion of the consultant grade and have been consistently disappointed by the result. We also need a life outside of work and the "more relaxed lifestyle" of consultants is something I look forward to.

Yours faithfully,
AVERIL O. MANSFIELD
(Consultant surgeon),
St Mary's Hospital,
Praed Street, W2.
March 3.

Venetian churches

From Mr H. W. Freeman-Attwood

Sir, The advice given by Mr Lees-Milne (letter, March 4) should on no account be taken. There is no place on earth like Venice, largely because its many and various churches are full of treasures, numbers of which are unique and were created specifically for them, often by artists who lived a stone's throw away. To move originals to the Accademia or the vestries and replace them with copies, or to close the churches to visitors, would destroy the soul of that city.

Rather than give in to the criminals, and thereby deny countless people the aesthetic and spiritual delight that Venetian churches offer, should not the proper authorities provide a force of security guards, at least in the more vulnerable and important churches? I believe that lovers of Venice would rather pay an entrance fee to subsidise proper security than contemplate the disastrous effects of Mr Lees-Milne's suggestions.

Yours faithfully,
WARREN FREEMAN-ATTWOOD,
West Flexford, Wanborough,
Guildford, Surrey.
March 5.

Lloyd's losses

From Mr G. A. E. Orman

Sir, It puzzles me how Mr Alan Lord, Lloyd's deputy chairman and chief executive (letter, February 29), can express confidence in the commercial future of Lloyd's under the present regulatory regime.

This body has taken no effective action in the face of the most serious of all threats to Lloyd's, that of asbestosis and pollution. The losses from these causes, which will have to be paid over the next ten to 20 years, could make major inroads into the £18 billion of reserves, and bankrupt a lot of people in the process.

Names are already having to pay on demand huge losses originating from policies written years before they joined Lloyd's, which their agents never disclosed to them and which their underwriters, to this day, have no adequate means of quantifying with any degree of confidence.

In these circumstances, it is a mystery how anybody can defend the importance of the Lloyd's regulatory system which allowed such a tragic situation to develop over the 15 or so years since the problem was recognised.

But if the view of those who defend it do prevail and things continue as they are, we may well see the end of Lloyd's before the end of the century, as suggested by Mr Ian Hay Davidson (letter, February 27).

Yours sincerely,
G. A. E. ORMAN,
10 Albert Bridge Road, SW11.
March 1.

From Mr Alfred Doll-Steinberg

Sir, Mr Alan Lord refers to "the last three years . . . of a statistically unprecedented number of catastrophe losses". Presumably he means 1988, 1989 and 1990.

According to a bar-chart published in the 1990 *Chatset Review* the number of catastrophes in each year from 1983-9 were as follows: 1983, 23; 1984, 15; 1985, 27; 1986, 4; 1987, 17; 1988, 15; 1989, 28. A figure for 1990 is not available to me, but 1989 is known to have been the worst year.

Thus 1988, the year of Piper Alpha, had only 15 catastrophes, well below both 1985 and 1983; and 1989, while perhaps "statistically unprecedented", at least in the seven years quoted, had only one catastrophe more than did 1985.

Yours faithfully,
ALFRED DOLL-STEINBERG
(Chairman, Gooda Walker action group),
18 Holly Walk, NW3.
March 1.

Weekend Money letters, page 28

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Election coverage and TV editing

From Mr Christopher Chataway

Sir, There may be no place, we are often warned, for the television documentary in the new competitive ITV. Does it really matter?

As chairman of an all-party Hansard Society commission, which reported recently on the conduct of elections, I agreed to be interviewed on the subject for *This Week* last night. We covered the over-representation of Scotland, Wales and London, the reasons why the commission did not recommend a limit on national expenditure by the parties, the rights of any individual to subscribe to a political party as well as the need for greater disclosure by the parties and the arguments for an electoral commission.

In the event, the programme turned out to be about an allegedly undisclosed contribution by Polly Peck to Conservative party funds. Its argument was that the major parties ought not to take money from rich individuals and that the Liberal Democrats are unfairly penalised because the other parties can spend so much more at election times.

These happen not to be propositions I agree with; neither were they the stated views of the commission on whose behalf I was supposed to be speaking. Nonetheless, by means of editing and excision of any contrary opinion, I was shown as popping up throughout the programme, apparently in general support of that thesis.

This Week, which has been ITV's current affairs showcase for several decades, will presumably disappear with Thames at the end of the year. Now that it is expected to produce a scandal or a revelation every week, perhaps it should pass unmourned.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER CHATAWAY,
The Hansard Society for Parliamentary Government,
16 Gower Street, WC1.
March 6.

East Timor deaths

From Mrs Saskia Kouwenberg and Mr Russell Anderson

Sir, Mr Richard Alexander, MP, and Mr Patrick Nicholls, MP (letter, February 17) attempt to discredit the foreign journalists who were present at the Dili shootings on November 12, 1991. They quote the "independent commission's" finding that "a number of foreigners took an active part in the demonstration".

We, two independent journalists (one Dutch, one Australian), had indeed heard about the demonstration. Is there anything illegal about that? Of course it was not easy to be informed about what was going on in that country because every East Timorese seen talking to a foreigner risked arrest, and not to be seen is hard in East Timor because (armed) military and police are present just about everywhere.

Several foreign journalists, including ourselves, were active on the demonstration: we moved from the front to the back and interviewed people. We call this normal behaviour for journalists. But to the best of our knowledge none of us were in any way involved in the preparation of the demonstration, nor did we carry banners during it.

Let us imagine, however, that some foreigners did actively so sympathise with the East Timorese. Should that be seen as an additional explanation for military to shoot at a defenceless crowd?

Yours etc.,
SASKIA KOUWENBERG,
RUSSELL ANDERSON,
Jacob van Lennepkade 44,
1053 Amsterdam.

Conflict in Karabakh

From Mr Temuçin Tüzecan

Sir, Baroness Cox (letter, March 4) refers to the theft of enormous arms supplies by Azeris from former Soviet weapon arsenals. Such talk is fine if one also talks about the enormous amounts of weapons purchased by the Armenians from the former soldiers of the Soviet Union, using the almost endless diaspora-dollars going to Yerevan mainly from the US and France. Baroness Cox should be aware of these fund raisers. She should be more open and admit that her heart lies with the Armenians rather than telling us that she is concerned equally for both communities.

Yours sincerely,
TEMUCIN TUZECAN
(London correspondent, *Milliyet*, Turkish national daily newspaper),
31 Mount Ephraim Lane, SW16.

Sir Ian, perhaps?

From Mr Derek Nimmo

Sir, The Keating factor obviously played a large part in England's massacre of the Australians.

Colonel Dymoke, the 34th hereditary Queen's Champion, should obviously now give way to the new Queen's Champion, Ian Botham. As a further rejoinder to Australia's prime minister, it would seem particularly appropriate if Her Majesty could graciously bestow upon Ian a knighthood — especially as Mr Botham has never tugged a forelock in his life.

I remain, yours sincerely,
DEREK NIMMO,
The Garrick Club,
Garrick Street, WC2.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 6: The Queen today visited Reading University to celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of higher education in Reading, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the Royal County of Berkshire (Mr John Henderson), and the Chancellor of the University (the Lord Sherfield).

Her Majesty opened the Microbiology Building, unveiled a commemorative plaque, and subsequently honoured the Chancellor with her presence at luncheon. The President of the Council of the University (Sir Donald Hawley) was also present.

The Queen visited the Institute of Agricultural History and Museum of English Rural Life and was received by the Director of the Institute of Agricultural History (Dr Edward Collins) and the Keeper of the Museum (Mr Roy Bridgen).

The Lady Farnham, the Rt Hon Sir Robert Fellowes and Wing Commander David Walker, RAF, were in attendance.

The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Captain David Mauleverer at the Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Air Chief Marshal Sir Alasdair Steedman, which was held in St Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2 today.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 6: The Princess Royal today visited Glasgow and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for the City of Glasgow (Mrs Susan Baird, the Rt Hon the Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, opened the Dixon Community Belleisle House Residential Unit, Govanhill, followed by a Luncheon at the Clydesdale Bank, 30 St Vincent Place.

The Princess Royal afterwards visited the Parkhead Housing Association, 56 Dechmont Street.

Her Royal Highness subsequently visited the Barrowfield Leather Company, 47 Solway Street.

The Princess Royal, President, British Olympic Association, attended the British Olympic Appeal Dinner at the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, Killermont Street.

Mrs David Bowes Lyon was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
March 6: The Princess of Wales this morning visited Centrepoint, Soho's special project for homeless 16 year olds, at Haberdashers House, 306 Queen's Road, London SE14.

Wing Commander David Barton, RAF, was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 6: The Duke and Duchess of Kent were represented by Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy at a Service of Thanksgiving for the Life of Air Chief Marshal Sir Alasdair Steedman, which was held in St Clement Danes, Strand, London WC2, today.

Giggleswick School

The following Scholarship Awards have been made for September 1992

Senior School

David Moray Watson Scholarship: Matthew Theakston, Cundall Manor.

Academic
6th Form: Victoria Haggas, Westholme School.
3rd Form: Clare Blackburne, Bethany Hammond and Russell Yeadon, Catteral Hall.

Music: John Swindells, Ripon Cathedral Choir School; Lindsay Wood, Polam Hall School; Nicholas Bowater, Durham Chorister School.

Art: Ivan Weightman, Durham Chorister School.

General Distinction:
6th Form: Justin Owen, Blessed Edward Jones High School.
3rd Form: Charlotte Sanderson, Ripon Cathedral Choir School; Edward Smith, Catteral Hall; Daniel Mackie, Harecroft Hall.

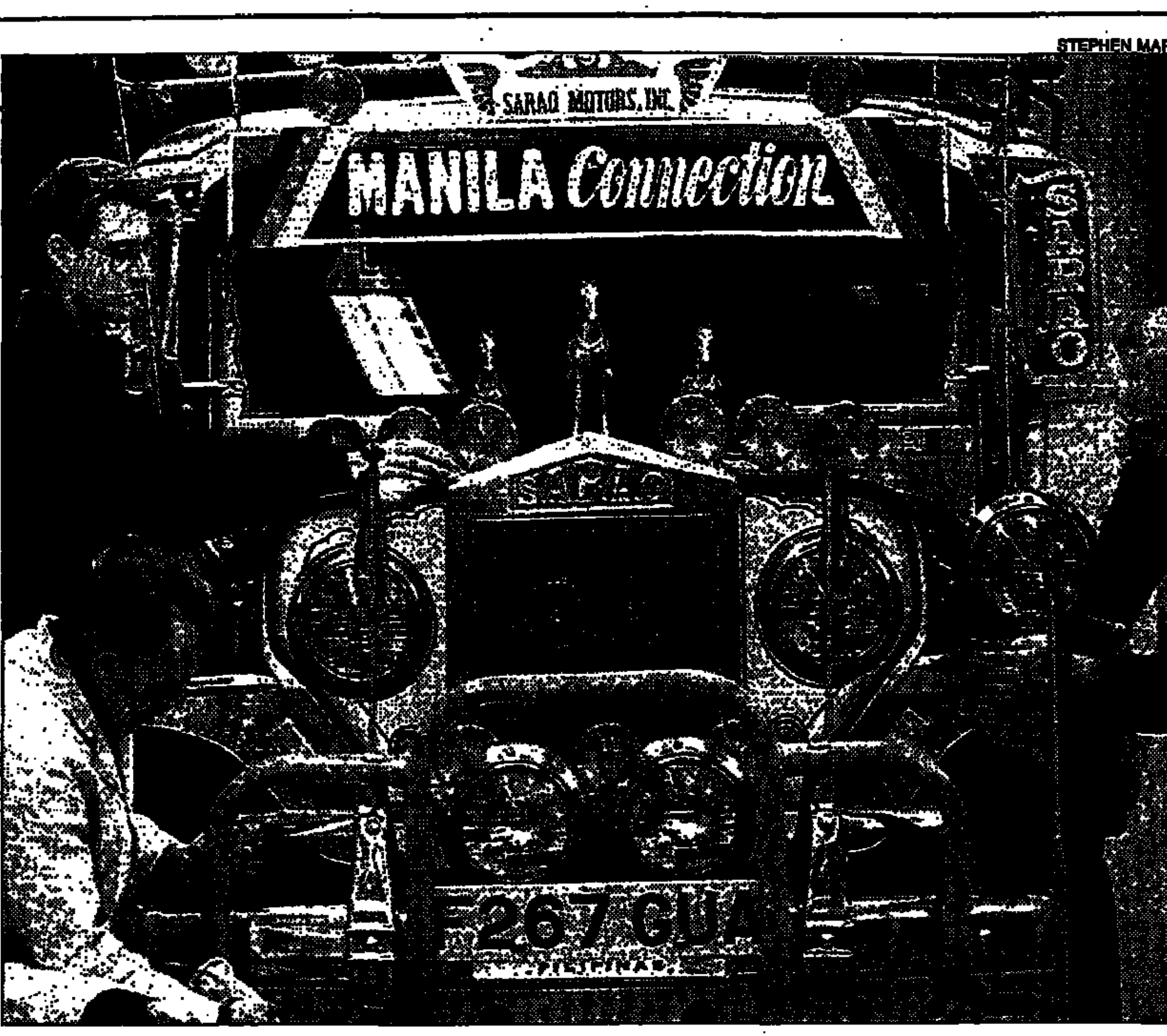
Continuation: Charles Ford, Hurworth House; Charlotte McKillop-Mash, St Martin's School.

Catteral Hall

Academic: Theo Britton, Glusburn Primary School; Claire Trayers, Laughton First and Middle School; Adam Barr, Kirkby Stephen Primary School; Laura Crossland, Rathmell Primary School; Kathryn Goodhew (Shute Scholarship) Settle Primary.
Music: Sandy Dalglish, All Saint's Primary, Thirsk.

Reception

St Anne's, Windermere
The Right Hon Sir Leon Brittan, QC, Vice-President of the Commission of the European Communities, was the principal guest at a reception given by St Anne's School on Friday evening at the school. He was welcomed by Mr Michael Hawkins, Headmaster.



STEPHEN MARKESON

A "jeepney" from the Philippines gets a polish before going on display at the Yorkshire Car Collection, an exhibition of over 200 vehicles that opens to the public in Keighley, West Yorkshire, on March 27. Jeepneys, based on the American jeep design, are widely used for public transport in Manila

Dinners

Plumbers' Company
The Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs attended the annual dinner of the Plumbers' Company held last night at the Royal Naval College, Greenwich. Mr G.W. Bambrough, Master, Mr J. Lawrence-Mills, Upper Warden, Mr G.E. Banks, Renter Warden, received the guests. The Master presided and the Lord Mayor and Lord Elliott of Morpeth also spoke.

Among others present were: the Masters of the Ironmongers' and Carpenters' Companies; Colonel W M Davidson and Captain R Bradley, RN.

Viscount Oxfuird
Viscount and Viscountess Oxfuird entertained members and guests of the International Cultural Exchange at dinner last night at the House of Lords. The Nicaraguan Ambassador was the guest of honour.

Old Stortfordians' Society
Mr P.R. Crameri, President of the Old Stortfordians' Society, presided at the annual dinner held last night at the Park Lane Hotel. Mr S.G.G. Benson, Headmaster of Bishop's Stortford College, Mr P.R.C. Coni, Chairman of Henley Regatta, and Mr J.M. Shearman, president-elect, also spoke.

Old Crosbeians
The annual London dinner of the Merchant Taylors' Old Boys' Association (Old Crosbeians) was held last night at the Naval and Military Club. Colonel Dai Morgan, president, was in the chair. Mr Gwilym Roberts, Lord Chalfont and Mr Simon Dawkins, Headmaster of Merchant Taylors' School, Crosby, also spoke. Among others present were: the Master and Clerk of the Merchant Taylors' Company, Mr John Bebb, Canon Donald Gray and Judge Brian Galpin.

Service dinners

Pembroke Yeomanry
Colonel W.P. Howells presided at the annual reunion dinner of the Pembroke Yeomanry held last night at the RAC Ranges, Castlemartin, to mark the anniversary of the surrender of the French invaders at Fishguard.

Army Air Corps
Officers of the Army Air Corps held their annual dinner at Headquarters Officers' Mess, Middle Wallop, last night. General Sir John Learmont, Colonel Commandant, presided.

RAF Regiment
Officers of the RAF Regiment based in Germany and their ladies attended a dinner held last night at Headquarters RAF Germany Mess, Rheindahlen, to mark the 50th anniversary of the regiment's formation. Wing Commander D.W. Sutcliffe presided and Group Captain D.A.G. Bremner, Command Regiment Officer, also spoke.

East Midlands Universities Air Squadron
Air Marshal Sir Michael Simmons, Deputy Controller Aircraft, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the East Midlands Univesities Air Squadron held last night at RAF Newton. Squadron Leader R.D. Gregory, Commanding Officer, presided. Air Vice-Marshal D. Cousins, Air Officer Commanding and Commandant RAF College Cranwell, attended.

Luncheon

Institution of Mechanical Engineers
Sir Bob Reid, Chairman of British Railways Board, was the speaker at the annual luncheon of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers' Railway Division held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Mr John Mitchell, chairman of the division, was the host. Professor Tom Patten, president of the institution, attended.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr T.B. Arends and Miss S.R. Touche
The engagement is announced between Trevor, son of Mrs Valerie Arends, of London, and Mr Kaj Arends, of the USA, and Susan, daughter of Sir Rodney and Lady Touche, of Canada.

Mr S. Bradley and Miss V.H.L.H. Hughes
The engagement is announced between Simon, youngest son of Mr and Mrs John Luxmore Bradley, of Plymouth, Devon, and Vanessa Hilary Lester Hartley, daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Peter Hughes, of Wonersh Park, Guildford, Surrey.

Mr C.A.C. Burrough and Miss S.M.L. Andrew
The engagement is announced between Christopher, second son of Mr and Mrs A. Burrough, of Henley-on-Thames, and Susie, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs J.R. Andrew, of Itchenor.

Mr P.S. Curtis and Miss P. Mollett
The engagement is announced between Paul, elder son of Mr and Mrs Alan Curtis, of Frensham, Surrey, and Philippa, daughter of Mr and Mrs Philip Mollett, of Richmond, Surrey.

Mr N.J. Doggett and Miss M.E. Cawrse
The engagement is announced between Nigel, younger son of Mr and Mrs Stephen Doggett, of Burbage, Leicestershire, and Miranda, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Cawrse, of St Margaret's, Twickenham.

Mr P.D. Hall and Miss M.R. Tucker
The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of Mr and Mrs William Hall, of Muswell Hill, and Miranda, younger daughter of Mr Geoffrey Tucker, of the Isle of Dogs, and Mrs Margaret Tucker, of Highgate, London.

Mr J.N. Rayment and Miss S.M. Smith
The engagement is announced between Jeremy, younger son of Mr T.V. Rayment, of Send, Surrey, and Mrs S.M. Rayment, of Sutton, Surrey, and Sarah, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs R.M. Smith, of Lansdown, Bath, Avon.

Mr I.E.C. Smallbone and Miss A.J. Owton
The engagement is announced between Ian, elder son of Mr and Mrs Graham Smallbone, of Oakham, Rutland, and Amanda, eldest daughter of Mrs Avril Owton and stepdaughter of the late Mr Thomas Owton, of Brockenhurst, Hampshire.

Mr A.J. Thorley and Miss H.A. Boyle
The engagement is announced between Alexander James, eldest son of Professor and Mrs John Thorley, of Ambleside, Cumbria, and Helena Anne, only daughter of Mrs Sylvia Rogerson and stepdaughter of Mr Ian Rogerson, of Hest Bank, near Lancaster, Lancashire.

Mr P.M. Webber and Miss L.E. Saul
The engagement is announced between Philip Michael, second son of Mr M.R. Webber, of Byfleet, Surrey, and Mrs J.M. Grassam, of May Hill, Gloucestershire, and Lucy Emma, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs P.B. Saul, of London, W1.

Marriages

Mr D.P. Morland and Mrs A. Culme-Seymour
The marriage took place quietly in London on February 11, 1992, of Mr Dominic Morland and Mrs Alexandra Culme-Seymour.

Mr R.J. Mullis and Miss A.I.C. Grand
The marriage took place on February 29, at the Collegiate Church of St Endellion. The Right Rev Richard Cartwright officiated, assisted by Prebendary Michael Bartlett.

Mr Alistair Mullis was best man. A reception was held at the bride's home. The honeymoon is being spent in Argentina.

Mr B.M. O'Connor and Miss M. Van der Merwe
The marriage took place on February 22, 1992, at St Mary's Cathedral, Cape Town, between Breffni Michael, eldest son of Mr and Mrs A.M. O'Connor, of Umtata, Transkei, and Marieka, only daughter of Professor H.W. and Mrs M. Van der Merwe, of Cape Town. The celebrant was the Rev Thomas A. Hunt, OSA, Rector, St Patrick's National Church, Rome, grand uncle of the groom.

A reception was held at the City and Civil Service Club.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: Mr David Arbuthnot, racehorse trainer, 39; Sir Robert Atkinson, former chairman, British Shipbuilders, 76; Mr William Boyd, author, 40; Mr W.A. Bromley-Davenport, Lord Lieutenant of Cheshire, 57; Viscount Chelmsford, 61; Mr G.A. Cooke, former chairman, C.T. Bowring, 69; Professor W.R.S. Garton, professor of spectroscopy, 80; Sir Kenneth Green, director, Manchester Polytechnic, 58; Mr J.O. Hambro, former president, Hambros, 73; Mr Justice Hidden, 56; Mr R.F. Humm, former managing director, Ford Motor Company, 55; Sir Anthony Lambert, diplomat, 81; Sir John Latey, former High Court judge, 78; Mr Ivan Lendl, tennis player, 32; Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, 71; Mr Michael Oliver, racehorse trainer, 42; Sir Eduardo Paolozzi, sculptor, 68; Dame Beryl Paston Brown, former principal, Homerton College, Cambridge, 83; Professor Sir David Phillips, molecular biophysicist, 68; Mr Piers Paul Read, author, 51; Mr Viv Richards, cricketer, 40; the Earl of Snowdon, 62; Mr Martin Tickner, theatrical producer, 51; Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes, explorer, 48; Mr Richard Vernon, actor, 67; Dame Kate Weston, former director, Science Museum, 66.

TOMORROW: Colonel Sir Henry Abel Smith, former governor, Queensland, 92; Major-General Sir Christopher Airy, royal equerry, 58; Sir John Badenoch, physician, 72; Mr Gyles Brandreth, author and broadcaster, 44; Sir Julian Bullard, diplomat, 64; Sir Anthony Caro, sculptor, 68; Sir James Comyn, former High Court judge, 71; Mr Phil Edmonds, cricketer, 41; Miss Anne Fisher, former headmistress, Wycombe Abbey School, 79; Mr Michael Grade, chief executive, Channel 4, 49; the Hon Douglas Hurd, MP, 62; Mr Michael Inchbald, designer, 72; Miss Ann Jenner, ballerina, 48; Sir Geoffrey Meade, former consul, 90; Miss Lynn Redgrave, actress, 49; Rabbi Professor Jonathan Sacks, Chief Rabbi, 44; Miss Lynn Seymour, ballerina, 53; Professor Norman Stone, modern historian, 51.

Royal engagements

TODAY: Prince Edward will attend the International England v Wales rugby match at Twickenham at 12.30.

The Princess Royal, as Patron of the Scottish Rugby Union, will attend the Scotland v France International match at Murrayfield at 12.45.

The Duke of Gloucester, as Honorary Colonel of The Royal Monmouthshire Royal Engineers (Militia), will take the salute at a Freedom of the City of Swansea parade at 12.15; and will open the new Territorial Army Centre, Richardson Street, Swansea, at 2.25.

TOMORROW: The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a service to mark the 300th anniversary of the Danish Church at St Clement Danes, the Strand, at 2.25.

Church services tomorrow

First Sunday in Lent

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Matins; 9.30 S Euch (Our Lady Undercroft); 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Berkeley), Jesu, Lord, that madest me (Terry), Very Rev A C Bridge; 3.15 E, Responses (Ebdon), Gibbons Second Service; 6.30 Sermon & Compline, The Archdeacon.

YORK MINSTER: 8 & 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Litany (Loosemore), Missa ad imitationem Pater Noster (Handl), Ven L Stanbridge; 11.30 M, Responses (Moore), The Lamentation (Bairstow), Benedictus (Stanford); 4 E, Watson in E, Jehovah, quam multi sunt hostes (Purcell), Rev Jean Mayland.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 M, Responses (Hendrie), The Service for Men's Voices (Batten), The First Service (Shepherd), Can J Halliburton; 11.30 HC, Missa sine nomine (Asola), O sacrum convivium (Viadana); 3.15 E, Alcock in D, By the waters of Babylon (Wills), Rev Dr E J Yarnold.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Responses (Tomkins), Benedictus Short Service (Byrd), The Lamentation (Bairstow), Hear my prayer (Purcell), Canon C Semper; 11.15 Abbey Euch, Missa Bel'Amfitrit' altera (Lassus), Lotti Crucifixus, Canon A Harvey; 3 E, Howells in B minor, Lord, let me know mine end, Rev R Syms; 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 ES, Canon D Gray.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 HC; 11 Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Turn back, O man (Holst), Call to remembrance (Farrant), Canon R White; 3 ES, Sumsion in A, Lord, let me know mine end (Greene), Rev N Worn.

WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: Masses 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30 & 7; 10.30 SM, Mass for four voices (Byrd), Planxit autem David (Josquin), 10 Morning Prayer; 3 RCIA Rite of Election (no Vespers).

GREEK ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE DIVINE WISDOM, Moscow Rd, W2: 9.30 M; 11 Divine Liturgy.

RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF THE DORMITION OF THE MOTHER OF GOD, Ennismore Gdns, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

SERBIAN ORTHODOX CATHEDRAL OF ST SAVVA, Lancaster Rd, W11: 10.30 Divine Liturgy.

THE CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Wash me throughly (Wesley), Ven K S Pound.

ROYAL HOSPITAL, Chelsea, SW3: 11 Ubi Caritas (Duruflé), Lord rebuke me noc (Gibbons), Le banquet céleste (Messiaen), Rev T Hiney.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: 11 M, Lamentations (Bairstow), Remember not Lord our offences (Purcell), The Chaplain; 12.30 HC.

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: 11 M, Haste Thee, O God (Batten), Gloria Benedicite, Miserere (Allegri), Rev Fr J Naters; 12 HC (said).

LINCOLN'S INN CHAPEL: 11.30 MP & Sermon, Benedicite, Jubilate, Ave Verum (Elgar), Rev F V A Boyse.

TOWER OF LONDON, EC3: 11 M & Sermon, Responses (Tallis), Benedictus (Ashfield in F), Benedictus (Chant), Beatitudes (Plant), Canon J G M W Murphy.

TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street, EC4: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Responses (Ayleward), Benedicite (Sumsion in B flat), Benedictus (Walford Davis in G), O Lord, look down from heaven (Battishill), The Master.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M & Litany, Benedicite (Sumsion in B flat), Jubilate (Stanford in B flat), Litany (Loosemore); 3.30 E, Lord for thy tender mercy's sake (16th century), Fauxbourdons (Tallis), The Ways of Sion (Wise).

ALL HALLOWS BY THE TOWER: 11 S Euch, Rt Rev J Brown.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: 8 & 5.15 LM; 11 HM, Missa Bel' amfitrit altera (Lassus), Cast me not away (Wesley), Rev R P Marshall; 6 E & B, Fauxbourdons (Willan), O Lord, in thy wrath (Gibbons), The Vicar.

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: 11 Rev Dr J Stott; 6.30 Rev J Cook.

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, Cheyne Walk, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; 11 Parish Communion; 6 E.

CHRIST CHURCH, CHELSEA, SW3: 8 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev N Vigers.

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street: 8.15 HC; 11 S Euch, Missa super Frere Thibault (Lassus), Miserere (Allegri), Emendemus in Melius (Byrd), Rev A W Marks.

HOLY TRINITY, Brompton Road, SW7: 10.30 Family & HC, Rev J A K Millar; 6.30 Informal Service, Mr J Jennings.

HOLY TRINITY, Prince Consort Road, SW7: 8.30 & 12.05 HC; 11 Choral MP, Rev Dr M Israel.

HOLY TRINITY, Sloane Street, SW1: 8.45 HC; 11 S Euch, Rev K Yates.

ST ALBAN'S, Brooke St, EC1: 9.30 SM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (Walton), Rev K Morris; 5.30 LM.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Lamentation (Bairstow), Litany (Tallis), A Salvator mundi (Tallis), Rev A Winter; 6.30 E, Plainsong & faux-bourdons (Willan), A O Jesu Christe (van Berchem), Preb P Brock.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Benedicite (Lloyd in B flat), Purcell in C, Emendemus in melius (Byrd), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Radcliffe), Watson in E, The Wilderness (Wesley).

ST CUTHBERT'S, Philbeach Gardens SW5: 10 HC; 11 S Euch (Sumsion in F), Wash me throughly (Wesley), Rev J Vine.

ST GEORGE'S, Bloomsbury, WC1: 10 Euch; 6.30 EP, Fr M Day.

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Mass in D (Williams), A Nolo Mortem Peccatoris (Morley), Very Rev J McCarthy.

ST GILES-IN-THE-FIELDS, St Giles High St, WC2: 8 & 12 HC; 11 MP, Rev G C Taylor; 6.30 EP, Rev P Pannch.

ST JAMES'S, Muswell Hill, N10: 8 HC; 10.30 Morning Worship, Preb M Bunker; 6.30 EP, Rev J Wood.

ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch; 5.45 EP.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa brevis (Monteverdi), Hide no thou thy face (Farrant), Rev R Wren; 6 Choral E, Purcell in G minor, Jehova quam multi sunt hostes mei (Purcell), Rev G Buckle.

ST JOHN'S, Hyde Park Crescent, W2: 8 HC (said); 10 Parish Communion, Mrs Jill Carman; 6.30 ES, Rev T Birchard.

ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, Holland Rd, W14: 10 Mass (Latin); 11 SM; 6 Stations of the Cross & Benediction

ST JOHN'S WOOD CHURCH, NW8: 8 HC; 9.30 Parish Communion; 11 S Euch, Hear my Prayer (Purcell), Mass for six voices (Tye), Rev D Frith.

ST LUKE'S, Chelsea, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 MP & HC, Nolo mortem peccatoris (Morley), Rev S Watson; 6.30 E, Hear my prayer O Lord (Purcell), Jill Hawkie.

ST MARK'S, Regents Park Rd, NW1: 8 HC; 10 Family C; 11 S Euch, Four part mass (Byrd), Rev T Devonshire Jones.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 Choral M, Responses (Tomkins), Benedicite (Harris in A), De profundis clamavi (Morley), The Dean; 12.15 HC.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 Euch, Five-part Litany (Tallis), Mass (Stokes), Super flumina (Palestrina), Rt Rev D Wilcox; 11.30 Visitors to London Service, The Vicar; 2.45 Chinese Service, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E, Responses (Sumsion), Magnificat (Bairstow in D), The Wilderness (Wesley); 6.30 ES, Prayer (Taizé), Rev M Henwood.

ST MARY ABBOTS, Kensington, W8: 8 & 12.30 HC; 9.30 Parish Euch, Dr Oakley John; 11.15 Choral M, Dr Oakley John; 6.30 E, Fr F Gelli.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 9.45, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa brevis (King Henry V), Fr D Skeoch; 6 Solemn E & B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill, NW3: 8 HC; 10.30 Sung Parish Euch, Mass (plainsong), Hear my prayer (Batten), Rev L van der Pump.

ST MARYLEBONE, Marylebone Road, W1: 8 HC; 11 Choral Euch, Mass for three voices (Byrd), Hide not thou thy face (Farrant), Rev R McLaren; 6.30 EP.

ST MARY-LE-STRAND (WRNS Church), Strand WC2: 11 Sung Communion, Rev E Thompson.

ST MATTHEW'S, Great Peter St, SW1: 8 LM; 10 SM, Music (Murray), Rev M Hayes; 6.30 LM.

ST MICHAEL'S, Chester Square, SW1: 8.15 & 11 HC; 7 Informal ES at Grey Coat Hospital Lower School, Graham Terrace and Informal ES & HC at St James the Less, Vauxhall Bridge Road.

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 Choral M, Responses (Ebdon), Benedicite (Purcell in G), Benedictus (Gibbons in F), Lord, how long wilt Thou be angry (Purcell); 12 HC.

ST PAUL'S, Onslow Square, SW7: 10.30 Family HC; 6.30 Informal Service.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8 & 9 HC; 11 Solemn Euch, Missa primi toni (Palestrina), Sing unto the Lord (Gibbons), A Hymn to God the Father (Humfrey), Canon G Hudson.

ST PETER'S, Eaton Square, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Family Mass; 11 SM, Mass à 4 (Byrd), Vox dicentis (Naylor), Fr A Buck.

ST SIMON ZELOTES, Milner Street, SW3: 8 HC; 11 MP, Salvator mundi (Blow), Rev G James; 6.30 E, Rev G James.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8 & 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Tre Vocum (Lotti), Si iniquitates observeres (Wesley), Blessed is he whose unrighteousness is forgiven (Tomkins); 6 Stations of the Cross & Benediction.

ST VEDAST, Foster Lane, EC2: 11 Sung Mass, Rev R Avent.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 Rev W A Cairns; 6.30 Rev J H McIndoe.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15 & 6.30 Rev H Stanley C Hood.

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: 11 Missa O regem coeli (Palestrina), Lamentations (part II) (Tallis).

CHURCH OF OUR MOST HOLY REDEEMER, Cheyne Row, SW3: 10, 11, 12.30 & 6.30 Fr P Nolan.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM, Mass of St Clare, Justorum animae (Lassus), Peccantem me quotidie (De Monte).

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 11 Missa Douce memoire (Lassus), Emendemus in melius (Byrd), 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B, Miserere mei (Victoria).

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 Missa brevis (Selber), Miserere mei (Byrd), Fancy in G (Gibbons).

ST MARY'S, Cadogan Street, SW3: Masses 8.30, 10, 11 Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), O vos omnes (Jachet), O bone Jesu (Palestrina), 12.15, 6.30.

AMERICAN CHURCH IN LONDON, Tottenham Court Rd, W1: 9.45 Sunday School; 11 Worship, Rev R Allison.

CITY TEMPLE, Holborn, EC1: 10.30 Rev N Rivett-Carnac.

CHELSEA METHODIST CHURCH, King's Road, SW3: 11 Rev Dr G Lovell; 6 Mr P Mansbridge.

HINDE STREET METHODIST CHURCH, W1: 11 Rev P Hoar; 6.30 Rev M Rothwell.

KENSINGTON TEMPLE, (Charismatic), Notting Hill Gate, W11: 9 Teaching Sunday, Colin Dye; 11 Take the City, C Dye; 2.30 Teaching Sunday, C Dye; 6.30 Take the City, C Dye; 9 In Concert.

KENSINGTON URC, Allen Street, W8: 11 Rev A Newman.

REGENT SQUARE URC (Presbyterian/Congregational), Tavistock Place, WC1: 11 Rev K Swaine; 5.30 Rev Dr R Scopes.

SALVATION ARMY (Regent Hall), Oxford St W1: 11 Colonel L Fisher; 6.30 Major R Redhead.

ST ANDREW'S URC, Frognal Lane NW3: 11 Rev Dr P Morgan.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev R T Englund; 7 Choral Vespers, Aus tiefer Not (Bach), Rev S Everson.

ST JOHN'S WOOD URC, NW8: 11 MS, Rev Dr D T Jenkins.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Rev P Hulme.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11 & 6.30, Rev Dr R J Tudor.

WESTMINSTER CHAPEL, Buckingham Gate, SW1: 11 & 6.30, Rev Dr R T Kendall.

WESTMINSTER MEETING SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (Quakers), 52 St Martins La WC2: 11, Meeting for worship.

But Jesus knew what was in their minds, and said, "Every kingdom divided against itself is laid waste, and a divided household falls."
St Luke 11 : 17 (REB)

BIRTHS

ALDERSON - On February 10th 1992, to Elizabeth (née Hutchinson) and Ian, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth.

BARNES - On March 3rd, at the Humana Hospital Wellington, to Elisabeth and David, a son, Frederik Nicholas.

CHAMBERS - On February 29th at home, to Maria and Sebastian, a daughter, Martha Carmen, a sister for Alfred.

GARDINER-HILL - On February 24th, to Caroline (née Russell) and David, a son, Charles William.

GRABINER - On March 4th, at the Humana Hospital Wellington, to Anthony and Jane, a daughter, Laura Sarina, a sister for Joshua and Daniel.

MAXTED - On March 3rd at home, to Nicola (née Godden) and Robert, a daughter, Tsiana, a sister for William and for Katherine and Sarah.

MURPHY - On March 1st, to Emma (née Roper-Curzon) and Robert, a daughter, a sister for Dawne and Willow.

RAE - On March 5th, to Jane (née Boreham) and Douglas, a son, Rory Charles Douglas, a brother to Jamie.

SADLER - On March 5th 1992, to Ronel (née Jansen) and Stephen, a son, Thomas Patrick, a brother for Emily and Katherine.

SELDON - On March 3rd, to Joanna and Anthony, a son, Adam Joshua, a brother for Jessica and Susannah.

TOLER - On March 4th, to Victoria (née Charrington) and Hugh, a son, Charles Frederick.

WHEELDON - On March 2nd, to Joanna (née Hayes) and Howard, a son, Giles Roderick Guy, a brother for Eleanor.

WORSLEY - On March 5th, at St Mary's, Paddington, to Marie Noelle (née Dressmann) and William, a daughter, Francesca Sylvia.

DEATHS

APPLEBY - On March 5th, peacefully, Fred Roper aged 80. Funeral Service at St Thomas' Church, Lymington, on Thursday March 12th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired for Oakhaven Hospice may be sent c/o F W House and Sons, Funeral Directors, Lymington, Hampshire.

BAILEY - On March 2nd 1992, at The Royal Marsden Hospital, London, with indefatigable courage and resolute resilience, June Moyra Bailey M.B.E. aged 60. Matron M.R.C. Harvard Hospital Salisbury 1970-1972, Matron The Home For Aged Jews London 1972-1973, Matron The Royal Star and Garter Home Richmond 1983-1991. Requiem Mass at the Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Selsey, March 12th at 2.30. Donations if desired, The Home For Aged Jews, Animal Welfare, The Royal National Lifeboat Institution, The Arts Council or The Royal Horticultural Society. Enquiries to F Holland F/D Chichester tel. 0243 782968.

BAKER - On March 1st, in a swimming accident in Indonesia, Daniel Henry Grattan, aged 24 years, of Sheffield. Dearly loved son of Keith and Sarah and dear brother of Eleanor, Jo and Edward. Enquiries to John Heath & Sons Funeral Directors, Sheffield. (0742) 722222.

BOSCAWEN - On March 6th 1992, peacefully at home, James Townshend aged 59. Beloved husband of Deirdre, devoted father of Caroline and Diana, father-in-law of Angus and Nigel and dear grandfather of Lucy and James. Private cremation. Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Birnam, on Wednesday March 11th at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, but donations if desired to Marie Curie Foundation, 1 Delmont Road, Glasgow G21 3AY.

DURELL - On March 4th, Ronald Bertram. Family cremation, March 11th. Flowers to Buckle & Sons, 246 Fulham Road, SW10.

EDWARDS - On March 6th, peacefully in her sleep, Nora Frances, aged 86, of Seer Green, Beaconsfield, widow of Dick and mother of Linda and Hilary. No flowers please. Enquiries to H C Grimstead Ltd 0494-672668.

GARNER - On March 4th 1992, Damien aged 24, peacefully from lung fibrosis very bravely borne, the very dearly beloved son of David and Anthea, brother of Sebastian and Henrietta. Funeral will take place at St Oswald's Church, Lower Peover, on Wednesday March 11th at 2 pm followed by interment in the churchyard. Flowers may be sent or if desired donations to Harefield Hospital Transplant Trust, c/o J.A. Whiston Funeral Directors, Kings Street, Knutsford, Cheshire. (0565) 632644.

GILLESPIE - On March 5th, peacefully at Woodpeckers Nursing Home Brockenhurst, Norah Evelyn aged 85, daughter of the late Major Jack Gillespie and Mabel Gillespie. Funeral Service Tuesday March 10th at St Saviour's Church, Brockenhurst at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired for the R.S.P.C.A. may be sent c/o F.W. House and Sons, Funeral Directors, Lymington, Hampshire.

HAWKINS - On March 5th 1992, peacefully in hospital, Laurence Edward, formerly of Pinner, aged 89. Devoted husband of Grace, much loved father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Service at St Mary's Parish Church, Upavon, Wilts, on Thursday March 12th at 3pm, followed by interment. Flowers c/o F Dewey Ltd., 26 River Street, Pewsey.

HAZELL - On March 6th, peacefully at home, Yda Christine, widow of Major Peter Hazell, much loved mother and granny of Jonathan, Rena, Lara, Alex, Thomas and Bryony. Cremation on March 13th, 3.30 pm at St Marylebone Crematorium, East End Road, London N2. Flowers (071) 837-9665.

HINGE - On March 5th, peacefully after a courageous fight at The Nuffield Hospital, Douglas, much loved husband of June, loving father of Jackie, John and Suzanne and son-in-law Pete. Service at The Vinters Park Crematorium, Maidstone, at 12.30 pm on Thursday March 12th. No flowers please, but donations, if desired, to Cancer Research c/o Pickard & Beale Funeral Directors, Brewer Street, Maidstone.

HOME - On March 5th, peacefully at home after a long illness, Sally, former actress, married to George Baker. No flowers, donations to The M R Scanner Appeal, Southampton General Hospital, Southampton, Hants SO9 4XY.

LACKA - On March 4th, peacefully at West View Hospital, Tenterden, Irena Maria of Woodchurch. Widow of Vincent Lacki and a much loved mother and grandmother. Requiem to be held at St Andrew's Church, Tenterden, on Wednesday March 11th at 11.30 am. Flowers to T.W. Fuggle, 20 Ashford Road, Tenterden, Kent by 10.30 am.

LUXTON - On February 28th 1992, suddenly but peacefully after a short illness, William John (Bill), aged 82, a past chief executive of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Dearly beloved husband of Megan, much loved father of Kathleen and Robert and loving grandfather of Gwen, Anna, Christopher, Johnny and Patrick. Cremation has already taken place privately. Enquiries (0873) 810416.

MEHAN - On March 1st 1992, Valentine of Heyope, aged 86 years. Wife of Capt Dodd Mehan. Funeral Service at St David's Church, Heyope, on Tuesday March 10th at 10 am, followed by cremation at Hereford Crematorium at 11.30 am. Flowers or donations if desired to St David's Church. Enquiries to Geoff Hall Funeral Services (0547) 528554.

MOLE - On March 4th 1992, suddenly in Oxford, Dr. R H Mole FRCP FRCPAth, aged 78. Funeral Service to be held on Wednesday March 11th 11.30 am St Johns Chapel, Oxford Crematorium. Memorial Service to be announced by the Director's Office MRC Radiobiology Unit, Harwell, telephone 0235 834393. No flowers: Donations to Family Holiday Association, Hartford Lodge, East End Road, London N3 3QE. Telephone 081-349 4044.

PEEL-HOBSON - On March 3rd, after a very short illness at Minchinhampton, Glos., Ruth (Levet). Funeral Service at Minchinhampton Parish Church on Tuesday March 10th at 11.15 am, followed by cremation at Cheltenham Crematorium at 12.30 pm. Spring flowers only, or donations for Redwings Horse Sanctuary, c/o Philip Ford & Son (Funeral Directors) Ltd., Dirleton House, Stroud, Glos.

ROWLAND - On March 5th 1992, peacefully in the Biggleswade Nursing Home, Frank Ernest Rowland F.I.E.E., past President of The Institution of Agricultural Engineers, deeply loving husband of Dorothy, both formerly of Cambridge. Service of Praise and Thanksgiving at Great St Mary's Church, Cambridge, at 3.30 pm Wednesday March 11th. Flowers to the Church or if preferred, donations to The Rowlands Trust (for Indigent Christian Workers), 12 Palace Street, London SW1E 5JF.

SAVORY - On March 5th 1992, Jane, sister of Mary, Peter and David, friend of Rose and Walter. Cremation private, family flowers only. Thanksgiving Service at All Saints Parish Church, Poringland, near Norwich, on Thursday March 19th at 2.30 pm. Donations, if so desired, for Poringland Church, can be sent c/o Copping Funeral Service & Partners, Chapel Lane, Sholesham, Norwich NR15 1YP.

SHELDRAKE - On March 5th, in hospital, Leslie Thomas, aged 87 years, of Kingsand, Cornwall. Husband of Jean. A private cremation will take place in Plymouth. Family flowers only please. Donations in lieu, made payable to the R.N.L.I., may be sent to Walter Parson, Salisbury House, St Judes, Plymouth. (0752) 665438.

SPRIGGS - On March 8th 1992, peacefully, Sheila Helen (nee More) of Wylam, aged 73 years. Beloved wife of the late Edmund Anthony, dear mother of Mary, Kitty, Edmund, David and Michael and proud grandmother of ten. Private funeral service, thanksgiving to be announced later. No flowers please.

THOMAS - On March 4th, peacefully at Sutton Veny House Nursing Home, Signe Rosemary Thomas, in her 88th year, wife of Tim and beloved mother of Alexandra and Rosella. Funeral at Heytesbury Church at 2.30pm on Thursday March 12th. Family flowers only, donations to Imperial Cancer Research Fund through F. Curtis & Son, 11 Portway, Warminster.

TOMPKINS - On March 3rd, peacefully at The Royal Star and Garter, Richmond, Frederick Henry George aged 83 years. Husband of the late Peggy and father to Hugh, David, Jonathan and Andrew, will be greatly missed by his family and many friends. Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorium on Tuesday March 10th 1992 at 10 am. Flowers/enquiries to T.H. Sanders & Sons tel 081-948 1551. No wreaths please.

TOWSEY - On March 6th at her Maryland, USA home, Joan, aged 70, devoted and dearly loved wife, mother and grandmother, leaving husband Ken, daughters Hilary, Virginia and Celia, and grandchildren Harold, Kirsten, Kenneth and Jack to mourn her.

TYER - On February 29th, peacefully, Joan Mary, aged 73, of Bexhill-on-Sea. Beloved wife of Trevor, devoted mother of John and Jane and loving grandmother of Richard, Jonathan and Anne-Marie, who brought her so much happiness. The funeral has taken place.

IN MEMORIAM – PRIVATE

BEECHAM - Sir Thomas, Bart., C.H., died 8th March 1961. Remembered with gratitude and affection for the great and lasting pleasure which he gave to countless music-lovers.

BEECHAM - Sir Thomas Bart. C.H. In memory of the greatest. "A star went out". March 8th 1961

CRITCH - Trudi M. It is now two years since you left us, and we remain very sad. But each day we give thanks for the great happiness you gave when you were with us. As wife, mother and Oma, you were treasured by all. Sleep quietly. We love you. John, Lesley, Jacqueline, Alexé.

LEWIS - In memory of Wyndham Lewis, died 7th March 1957, and Froanna.

STANLEY - Dorothy Kinraid. As she was, so she still is, and always will be.

TRUSTEE ACTS

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s27 of the TRUSTEE Act, 1925 that any person having a CLAIM against or an INTEREST in the ESTATE of any of the deceased persons whose names, addresses and descriptions are set out below is hereby required to send particulars in writing of his claim or interest to the person or persons mentioned in relation to the deceased person concerned before the date specified, after which date the estate of the deceased will be distributed by the personal representatives among the persons entitled thereto having regard only to the claims and interests of which they have had notice.

BENNETT, ARCHIBALD, 41 Bramwell House, Churchill Gardens Estate, London SW1. Died 9th March 1991. Particulars to Piper Smith & Basham, Solicitors of 31 Warwick Square, London SW1V 2AF (Ref.B.187.1.MS.SM BENNETT) Before 16th May 1992.

HALDANE, SHEILA ROSE MARY, 14 Greenhers Close, Northwood, Middlesex, died 19th November 1991. Particulars to Smeathmans, Solicitors P.O. Box 1, 10 Queensway, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP1 1LU, before 7th June 1992.

KELSEY, BLANCHE VERA OLIVE of 6 Meynell Crescent, London E9 died on 22nd November 1991. Particulars to Dowse and Co., Solicitors of 23/25 Dalston Lane, London E8 3DF before 7th June 1992.

TRUSTEE ACTS

MUKHERJEE ASHU TOSH, 64 Newnham Way, Kenton, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 9NT, died 21st May 1990. Particulars to Singh & Ruparell, Solicitors, 15 The Mall, Ealing W5 3TF (Reference V.K. Sharma) Before 18th May 1992.

PURSUANT to the Trustee Act 1925 ALL PERSONS having claims against or claiming to be beneficially interested in the estate of William Isaac Jevison late of 31 Baden Road Liverpool 13 who died on 1st February 1991 and whose will was proved in the Liverpool District Probate Registry on the 24th April 1991 by George David Rampion the sole executor named in it are required to send particulars in writing to the undersigned on or before the 12th May 1992 after which date the executor will proceed to distribute the assets having regard only to the claims of which he has had notice. Norton & Co., Solicitors 485 Warrington Road, Rainhill, Merseyside L35 4LL.

SADRI FRAGH NOWSHERWAN "PENTON" 30 Woodlands Road, Surbiton, Surrey, died 26th September 1990. Particulars to Singh & Ruparell, Solicitors 15 The Mall, Ealing, London W5 3TF (Ref. V K Sharma) Before 15th May 1992.

LEGAL NOTICES ALSO APPEAR ON THE PERSONAL PAGE

THE PERSONAL COLUMNS APPEAR IN WEEKEND TIMES SECTION PAGE 16

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WORDWATCHING

Answers from page 16

MINACK
(a) Open-air theatre, hewn out of the granite cliffs near Land's End, built from 1932 onwards by Rowena Cade. It seats 600, and is the finest and most skilfully adapted open-air theatre in England, with a thunderous Elsinore backdrop of the Atlantic.

EKKYKLEMA
(b) A piece of ancient Greek stage machinery, which means something "rolled on". It was something like a couch on wheels, or a pair of double doors, opened, eg at the end of Aeschylus's *Libation Bearers* to reveal the corpses of Clytemnestra and Aegisthus.

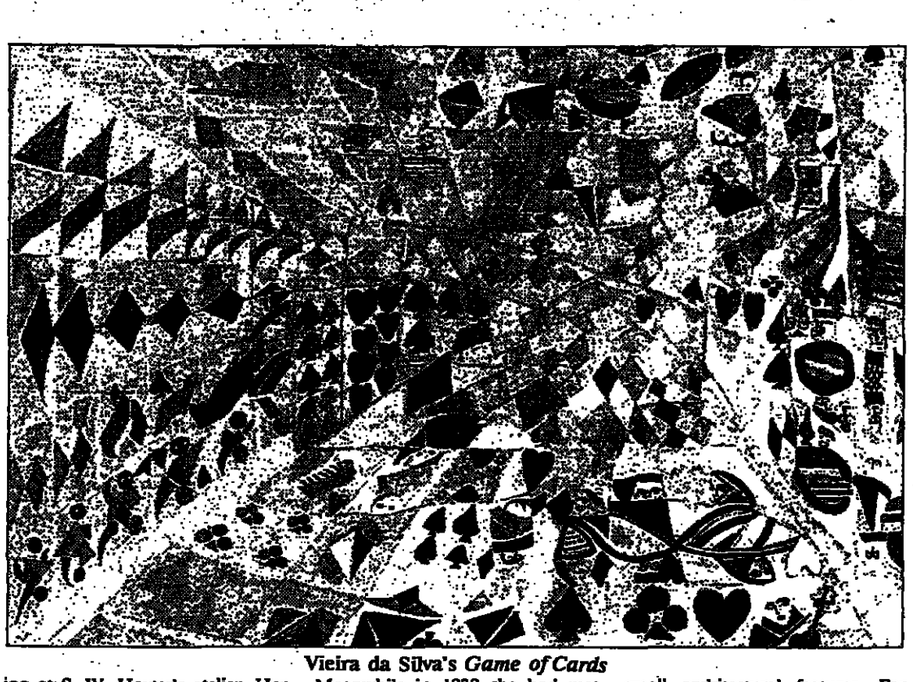
INCHBALD
(a) Elizabeth (1753-1821), English actress, and one of the first women dramatists. As actress, she had a slight impediment in her speech, so she became a capable writer of sentimental comedy.

MELO
(a) Francisco Manuel de (1608-66), Portuguese statesman and man of letters, whose *The Apprentice Nobleman* was the only work of value on the Portuguese stage at the time, and a source of Moliere's *Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme*.

OBITUARIES

MARIE-HÉLÈNE VIEIRA DA SILVA

Marie-Hélène Vieira da Silva, artist, died in Paris yesterday aged 83. She was born in Lisbon on June 13, 1908.



Vieira da Silva's *Game of Cards*

MARIE-HÉLÈNE Vieira da Silva was the most significant Portuguese-born painter of the twentieth century, even though during her long and active career she lived and worked for very little of the time actually in Portugal. She took French citizenship and was a key member of that heterogeneous international set known as the Ecole de Paris.

She was the only child of a prosperous and cosmopolitan Lisbon family. Although her father died when she was three, she travelled widely with her mother throughout her childhood, numbering among her formative experiences, oddly enough, a performance of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* she saw on the pier at Hastings when she was only five. She was a solitary and precocious child. Back in Lisbon she started going seriously to drawing classes when she was 11, took painting tuition from teachers of the Lisbon School of Fine Arts when she was 14, and had settled on sculpture as her chief interest by the time she was 16. When she was 20 she went to Paris, enrolled in the Académie de la Grande Chaumière and studied sculpture under Bourdelle.

The next year she changed spectacularly in direction, giving up sculpture completely and throwing herself wholeheartedly into painting under Othon Friesz and printmaking at S. W. Hayter's atelier. Her first professional successes were in carpet design and book illustration, particularly of children's books like Pierre Guegen's *Ko et Ko* (1933). Her first one-person show consisted largely of the designs for this book and related works, and took place in a then new Paris gallery set up by Jeanne Buchet, who was to be a lifelong friend and influence on her.

Meanwhile in 1930 she had met and married the Hungarian painter Arpad Szenes. It is recorded that she first sold a painting in 1934, to the Italian painter Campigli, and for the second time in 1937, to the English painter Julian Trevelyan.

At this period Vieira da Silva's work was very loosely representational, consisting mostly of very simplified interiors or close-up views of small architectural features. For some time in the Twenties she took classes with Léger; a little later the grid-like abstractions of Torres Garcia had a strong influence on her. By the end of the Thirties she had absorbed these elements and arrived at something close to the style in which she painted for the rest of her life, depicting great abstract perspectives and seemingly celestial mirror-mazes giving an ever more refined chequer-board effect. With the imminence of war in Europe she and her husband left Paris for Lisbon, and from there in 1940 went on to Brazil, where they painted and taught until 1947, when they returned to Paris.

During this period she still from time to time painted recognisable landscapes, and even one memorable portrait of her husband, but after her return to Europe she definitively adopted abstraction.

The rest of her career is a chronicle of triumphs: major exhibitions all over the world, honours in her native Portugal and especially in France, where she was made a Chevalier de L'Ordre des Arts et Lettres, and then a Commandeur, prizes at international festivals and important official commissions. Despite all this, she continued quietly to cultivate her own garden and develop her own style.



R. W. MARSH

R. W. Marsh, fruit tree pathologist and scientific editor, died on February 29 aged 92. He was born on December 27, 1899.

LARGE-scale production of dessert apples in England was precluded by scab disease when Ralph Warren Marsh was appointed mycologist at the University of Bristol's department of agriculture and horticulture during the General Strike in 1926. In a long and happy collaboration with H. G. H. Kearns, then the entomologist at the Long Ashton research station, and in parallel with scientists at East Malling research station, he demonstrated the value of lime sulphur and its use in a combined spray programme that was a major



factor in the production of quality fruit. He then keenly guided the study of new organic fungicides for scab control and was responsible for the orchard assessment of captan, dodine and, for mildew, dinocap — all still in use today. As head of the post-war plant pathology section, his encouraging yet gentle leadership provided staff and students with the ideal atmosphere for wholehearted research, both applied and strategic. He was an assistant director of the station from 1959 until his retirement in 1965, when he was awarded the OBE.

Marsh was president of the British Mycological Society in 1944 and of the Association of Applied Biologists from 1951 to 1953. However, "RW," as he was known, will probably be best remembered as an exceptional scientific editor. He served as honorary editor of *Annals of Applied Biology* from 1946 to 1969, and then as editorial secretary until 1972 when on his final retirement his appointment was described as accounting "more than any other single factor, for the success of the journal and of the association." He also initiated and edited the first book to be published on *Systemic Fungicides* (which ran to a second edition and a Japanese translation). He combined an insistence on scientific accuracy and clarity with a remarkable gift of literary dexterity for improvement of texts with minimal alterations.

Since 1965 "RW" continued to visit Long Ashton research station, initially daily for his editorial work, and latterly, until last November, fortnightly to spend time in the library. His sharpness of mind, delightful sense of humour and his humility, endeared him not only to the colleagues who were privileged to work with him, but to all those who knew him only in retirement, for these gifts continued undiminished to the end. He was married for 59 years, his wife dying in March 1987; he leaves two sons.

JAM SADIQ ALI

Jam Sadiq Ali, chief minister of Pakistan's southern province of Sind, died in Karachi on March 5, after a prolonged illness aged 56. He was born in 1935 in Jam Goth, a small village in Sind.



JAM Sadiq Ali was one of the most mercurial of the Pakistani politicians. He took over the reins of power in the country's most turbulent and ethnically divided province on August 7, 1990. One of the most controversial figures on Pakistan's recent political scene, he was greatly admired by his associates for his political wiliness, but equally hated by the opposition whom he ruthlessly crushed.

Scion of an influential feudal family, Jam Sadiq Ali entered politics at a very early age. As a candidate of Pakistan's Muslim League, he was elected to the West Pakistan provincial assembly in 1962, and later in 1965 became a member of the national assembly. He was elected a member of Sind's provincial assembly in December, 1970. Two years later he joined the Pakistan People's Party, and became a minister of local government, a post he held until the civilian government led by Zulfikar Ali Bhutto was overthrown by the military on July 5, 1977.

He fled to London after the coup as he feared arrest for his involvement in the murder of six members of the opposition Muslim League. He remained in exile in London for 12 years, and returned to Pakistan early in 1989 after the Pakistan People's Party, led by Miss Benazir Bhutto, returned to power. He was later appointed adviser in Miss Bhutto's government. However, he swiftly changed his political loyalties, and joined hands with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, following the dismissal of Miss Bhutto's government on August 6, 1990. He was appointed caretaker chief minister of Sind province on the next day Soon after taking over power, he arrested Asif Ali Zardari, husband of his erstwhile leader, Miss Bhutto, and imprisoned hundreds of other opposition activists on charges of their alleged involvement in terrorist activities.

With the support of the administration, and the use of coercive power, he managed to sweep aside Miss Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party in Sind's political stronghold in the November 1990 elections. He then retained the post of chief minister as the leader of the Islamic Democratic Alliance.

During his 19-month rule, Jam Sadiq Ali not only ruthlessly crushed the opposition, led by Miss Bhutto, but also managed to hold together the coalition government in the province where the the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance had insignificant support, perpetuating his authority through a combination of alliances and strong-arm tactics.

Jam Sadiq Ali attracted considerable public criticism recently when Miss Veena Hayad, a fashion designer, and a close of friend of opposition leader, Miss Bhutto, was gang-raped in Karachi. Miss Hayad accused the chief minister's adviser on home affairs of masterminding the crime. An American state department report on human rights this year cited many incidents of torture, political victimisation, and sexual abuse of opposition political activists in police custody during Ali's tenure.

State terrorism and political persecution were undoubtedly the dominant features of Jam Sadiq Ali's administration, but there was another side to the picture. Presiding over a coalition of diverse and rival political groups, he restored normality and calm in the ethnically divided and politically volatile province of Sind. Ethnic conflicts between the Urdu-speaking Mohajirs and local Sindis, which had brought the province to the verge of civil war, were significantly eased.

Saddiq Ali is survived by his wife and four children.

PROF ALAN R. WHITE

Alan White, philosopher, died on February 23 aged 69. He was born on October 9, 1922.

ALAN Richard White, was one of the most formidable practitioners of the kind of philosophy known as "Linguistic Analysis" or "Ordinary Language Philosophy". This was the philosophy which was associated with Oxford for two decades after the second world war, when the central figures there were Gilbert Ryle and John Austin. Like Ryle but not, perhaps Austin, White did not himself take kindly to these characterisations. What he thought he was doing was conceptual analysis. The stress he placed on language, on what we would ordinarily say, derived from the fact that he thought that this was the most effective, if not the only way of exhibiting conceptual differences and similarities.

During a long academic career he produced an impressive string of books and articles which showed the power of this method. His first major publication was on G. E. Moore (1958), in whose work, White thought, the appeal to ordinary language as a major technique in philosophy first made its appearance. There followed from White, among other books, *Attention*, *The Philosophy of Mind*, *Truth* and *Knowledge*. In his last years he concentrated his attention on the philosophy of law in books on *Rights* and, echoing A. P. Herbert, *Misleading Cases*. All of these were supported by a plethora of articles in the leading philosophy journals.

Although closely associated with the heyday of Oxford philosophy his background was quite different. He was born in Canada of Irish parents and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, where he gained a double first in Classics in philosophy (typically pugnaciously picking up on the way a boxing blue). He never lost either his Irish accent or his Irish sense of humour. Discussing philosophy with him was always a strenuous exercise but it was also always fun.

He joined the University of Hull in 1946 as an assistant lecturer, became Ferens Professor of Philosophy in 1961, a chair which he occupied until his retirement in 1985. He also served as dean of the faculty of arts and pro vice-chancellor. On retirement he moved to Nottingham where he soon became involved in the work of the philosophy department of the university which gave him the title of Special Professor.

No doubt a recommendation from the Trinity historian of philosophy A. A. Luce was influential in securing his first appointment, since philosophy at Hull was represented at the time by T. E. Jessop, whose lifelong concern was the collaboration with Luce to produce the definitive edition of the work of the Irish philosopher George Berkeley. Jessop must soon have realised that in White he had got more than he bargained for. Students in Hull were confronted on the one hand with Jessop, expounding with great dignity Berkeley's idealistic conception of the world, and on the other hand with White in his lectures on philosophical psychology patiently, but extremely wittily, showing that the distinctions on which it was based could not survive an examination of the conceptual distinctions which underlie our ordinary ways of talking about perception.

White's lectures on the philosophy of mind were not just given to philosophers but also to students from other disciplines: in particular, under the wise leadership of George Westby, head of the psychology department, to psychologists. Many of them went on to hold distinguished positions in university departments, taking with them into those areas the concern for conceptual investigations he had instilled in them. No student who attended his lectures and classes could remain unimpressed by the sheer power of argument there on display.

Philosophy pursued in White's manner is now no longer fashionable. The prevailing conception has its base in the theories of logic and semantics. But his work remains to remind us of how much can be achieved in philosophy by a close attention to our ordinary ways of speaking.

Vladimir Pozner

Vladimir Pozner, whose career as a writer and journalist took him from Russia to Hollywood, has died aged 87.

A long-time journalist on France's Communist Party daily *L'Humanite*, Pozner joined the Party in 1933 after meeting Maxim Gorky. Pozner was best known for his novels and non-fiction, including *A Panorama of Contemporary Russian Literature* (1937), *The Disunited State* (1938), *To Run Away* and *Mourning in 24 Hours* (1942), a novel on the second world war.

After the war, Pozner moved to Hollywood where he wrote film scripts for directors Louis Daquin, Joris Ivens and Robert Siodmak. His American work included the screenplay for *The Dark Mirror*.

While in the America, Pozner became friendly with Robert Oppenheimer, the father of the atomic bomb, who was included in Pozner's autobiography *Vladimir Pozner Remembers*. Others remembered in the work included Pablo Picasso, Charles Chaplin and Boris Pasternak.

Born on January 5, 1905, to Russian immigrant parents, Pozner took holidays with his family in their homeland and attended the university in St. Petersburg. The family was in Russia in October 1917 to witness the beginning of the Russian Revolution which marked Pozner for the rest of his life.

Memorial service

Sir Alasdair Steedman

The Duke of Edinburgh, Grand Master of the Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators, was represented by Captain David Mauleverer, Master, and the Duke of Kent, President of the RAF Benevolent Fund, and the Duchess of Kent by Air Chief Marshal Sir Thomas Kennedy, controller, at a service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Alasdair Steedman held yesterday at St Clement Danes.

The Rev A.T.R. Goode officiated. Mr Rod Steedman, son, and Mr Graham Abel, Headmaster of Hampton School, read the lessons, Mrs Jane MacKenzie, daughter, read *High Flight* by Pilot Officer John Gillespie Magee and Mrs Lesley Moodie, daughter, read from the works of William Saroyan. Air Chief Marshal Sir John Aiken gave an address and the Ven B.H. Lucas, Chaplain-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force, pronounced the blessing. The Rev Robin Turner, Assistant Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF Strike Command, the Rev Brian McAvoy, Assistant Chaplain-in-Chief, RAF Support Command, the Right Rev Leonard Ashton and Canon H.J. Stuart were robed and in the Sanctuary. Among others present were:

Major James Steedman (brother), Dr and Mrs Dennis Eastland (brother-in-law and sister), Katy Hammond and Iain and Alison Moodie (grandchildren), Commander Kenneth MacKenzie and the Rev Alastair Moodie (sons-in-law), Miss Jessie Sinclair, Mrs May Reid, Mr and Mrs Graham Eastland.

The Dowager Viscountess Trenchard, Lord and Lady Cato, Field Marshal Lord and Lady Carver, Marshal of the RAF Lord and Lady Craig of Radley, Air Commodore the Hon Timothy and Miss Elworthy, the Hon John Trenchard, the Hon Sir David Hunt, Air Commodore the Hon Sir Peter Vanneck, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Edward Ashmore, Admiral of the Fleet Sir Henry Leach (representing Officers Association), Marshal of the RAF Sir John and Lady Grandy, Marshal of the RAF Sir Michael and Lady Beetham, Marshal of the RAF Sir John and Lady Grandy, Marshal of the RAF Sir Denis and Lady Spotswood, Admiral Sir James Eberle, Admiral Sir Anthony Morton (chairman, King George's Fund for Sailors), Admiral Sir Peter Herbert (chairman, SSAFA).

General Sir Charles and Lady Richardson, General Sir Robert Ford (Army Benevolent Fund), Air Chief Marshal Sir David and Lady Parry-Evans, Air Chief Marshal Sir Christopher and Lady Foxley-Norris, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael and Lady Armitage, Air Chief Marshal Sir Robert and Lady Freer, Air Chief Marshal Sir Joseph Gilbert (RAF Association), Air Chief Marshal Sir Brendan Jackson, Air Chief Marshal Sir Roger Palin (Air Member for Personnel) and Lady Palin, Air Chief Marshal Sir Neville and Lady Stack, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael and Lady Graydon, Air Chief Marshal Sir Lewis Hodges (RAF Escaping Society), Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael and Lady Beavis, Air Chief Marshal Sir David and Lady Evans, Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Harding (Chief of the Air Staff) and Lady Harding, Air Chief Marshal Sir Anthony and Lady Skingsley, Air Chief Marshal Sir Patrick and Lady Hine, Air Chief Marshal Sir Frederick and Lady Rosier, Air Chief Marshal Sir John and Lady Gingell, Air Chief Marshal Sir David and Lady Lee, Air Chief Marshal Sir Nigel and Lady Maynard.

Vice-Admiral Sir Lancelot and Lady Bell Davies, Lieutenant-General Sir Robert Richardson, Air Marshal Sir Michael and Lady Simmons, Air Marshal Sir Roy and Lady Austen-Smith, Air Marshal Sir Michael and Lady Steer, Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling (Guild of Air Pilots and Air Navigators) and Lady Crowley-Milling, Air Marshal Sir Charles Ness, Air Marshal Sir Reginald Harland, Air Marshal Sir John and Lady Thomson, Air Mashal Sir Herbert and Lady Durkin, Air Marshal Sir John Kemball, Air Marshal Sir Geoffrey and Lady Ford, Air Marshal Sir John and Lady Lapsley, Air Marshal Sir Charles Pringle, Air Marshal Sir Frederick Sowery (RAF Historical Society) and Lady Sowery, Air Mashal Sir Kenneth and Lady Hayter, Air Marshal Sir Peter Balfour (Alsatian House Board), Air Marshal Sir John Whitley, Air Marshal Sir Harry Burton (Princess Marina House Board) and Lady Burton, Air Vice-Marshal Sir Alan Boxer.

Lady Kennedy, Lady Humphrey, Sir Ronald Melville (National Rifle Association), Lady McIndoe, Air Commandant Dame Jean Conan Doyle, Sir John Killick, Lady Jackson, Sir Kenneth Macdonald, Lady Whittingham, Lady Kyle, Lady Freeth, Sir George Edwards, Dame Felicity Peake, Sir Clive Rose, Sir Peter and Lady Masefield, Sir John Sparrow, Sir Peter Imbert (Commissioner Metropolitan Police) with Commander Hugh Blenkin.

Mrs D Mauleverer, Mrs Graham Abel, the Dean of Westminster and Mrs Mayne, the Ven J H and Mrs Wilson, Major-General P L de C Martin (Lady Grover's Hospital Fund for Officers' Families), Major-General D A Beckett, Air Vice-Marshal F Hurrell (also representing the Commander British Forces, Cyprus), Air Vice-Marshal Leslie Phipps, Air Vice-Marshal A Maisner (Polish Air Force Association), Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs J D Spotiswood, Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs R W F Wheeler, Air Vice-Marshal J M Brook (director-general, RAF Medical Services), Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs Frank Dodd, Air Vice-Marshal D O Crwys-Williams, Air Vice-Marshal P M S Hedgeland, Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs R Riseley-Prichard, Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs J H Harris, Air Vice-Marshal J W Price.

Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs B H Newton, Air Vice-Marshal W J Herrington, Air Vice-Marshal N Howlett, Air Vice-Marshal and Mrs R G Peters, Air Vice Marshal Edward Crew, Air Vice-Marshal A G Dudgeon, Air Vice-Marshal A Bell (appeals secretary, King Edward VII's Hospital for Officers), Air Vice-Marshal D L Attlee, Air Commodore N B Baldwin (Headquarters Strike Command).

APPRECIATIONS

Sandra Wells



MAY I add a personal footnote to your obituary of Sandra Wells (February 29). My parents, Douglas and Hannah Inman, nee Weight, were the proprietors of the Travelling Theatre referred to and, as a child, I well remember Janita, (as she then was), arriving in the company to play juvenile leads, with no experience at all of Repertory. My father handed her a script and said, "Here is your part for this evening". She was aghast and said, "I can't possibly learn this by tonight". "Oh yes you can", my father replied. "Rehearsal at five. Go away and study it". And she did. The play was a melodrama, *The Girl and the Chinaman*.

Sandra was an accomplished pianist and played the piano between acts, a favourite of hers being "The Rustle of Spring". She stayed with my parents for over a year. It was a hard training ground, but when she left she acknowledged that my father had taught her all she knew about the stage. She became a real trouper.

Celia Pearson Smith

Robin Johnston

WITH reference to the obituary of Robin Johnston (February 21) may I, as one of his pre-war contemporaries make three further points about his career in the Colonial Administrative Service.

He began it before, not after, the war: he was one of the 96 successful candidates in the 1938 selection and one of eleven posted in the first instance, to the mandated territory of Tanganyika.

After completion of the standard CAS course at Oxford or Cambridge in the academic year 1938/39 Robin and the other ten probationary cadets set off for Africa arriving in Dar-es-Salaam a few weeks before the outbreak of war and the consequent imposition of a strict ban on any releases to the Armed Forces.

Robin decided in 1940 to defy that rule and went AWOL, leaving a little note that the bird had flown — he flew himself out!

Thirdly, the legendary Ralph Furse, the director of recruitment for the Colonial Service, handpicked him in 1945 for secondment to the greatly expanded Appointments Department of the Colonial Office for the first year or so of the huge post-war recruitment programme.

Robin again made his name as a leader and a delightful companion, especially as the imaginative instigator of several practical jokes at the expense of officialdom. He was back in Tanganyika in 1947.

I hope space will also allow me to record his close friendship with Sir Archie McIndoe the life president of the RAF's Guinea Pig Club.

When Robin began his farming in Tanganyika, he did so as McIndoe's manager and later became his partner.

Robin did not go back to South Africa until after the independence of Tanganyika, as Tanzania, in December 1959, and McIndoe's death in April 1960, according to my information from another of Robin's admirers and friends in the CAS.

Tom Vickers,
Deputy Governor, Mauritius 1960-1968.

Sidney Benjamin



YOUR obituary notice for Professor Sidney Benjamin (29.2.92 — a date he would have savoured) concentrates on his considerable professional attainments and distinctions. Great though these were they were but a part of the man. He was a founder member, ten years or so ago, of this small medical charity which was established to support sufferers of the neurological disorders known as "the Dystonias". He had worked tirelessly in our cause, for several years as chairman and trustee. On their worldwide travels he and his wife, Goldie, always sought out fellow-workers and at home they gave generously of anything they had to give. This society would not be the success it is today if it had had to grow without them. Sidney was a man of many talents — an accomplished amateur painter, a lucid communicator in words, an interested and interesting conversationalist and a generous host. He had, perhaps above all, a positive genius for friendship as I and many others will long remember with gratitude.

Tom Beldon, Honorary Secretary, The Dystonia Society.

March 7 ON THIS DAY 1903

The great actress Sarah Bernhardt (1844-1923) had a liking for what were called "breeches" parts and on this occasion took on Werther, the love-sick hero of Goethe's novel. The Times *dramatic critic doubted if her portrayal would add anything to her reputation.*

MADAME BERNHARDT IN "WERTHER."

(From Our Dramatic Critic.)

PARIS, MARCH 6.

One would hardly expect theatrical events to be in any way influenced by the velocity of the air. It is a fact, however, that the recent gale has delayed the production of *Werther* at the Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt. A cart conveying a portion of the scenery through Paris was blown against a lamp-post, and a "practicable" staircase — a most important flight of stairs, down which Charlotte, having taken all the little Steinbachs to bed, was to trip to her Werther — was at once rendered impracticable. But Mme. Bernhardt, in a sense, rode the whirlwind and directed the storm. She took advantage of the delay to sell more seats, at fancy prices, for the dress rehearsal, with the result that something like a thousand pounds will go to the distressed fishermen of the Morbihan coast — that coast which Mme. Bernhardt may be said to "occupy" when she is at home — for what was not so much a dress rehearsal as a gala performance. "All Paris" was present, and accomplished the arduous feat of sitting through *Werther*, from half-past 8 until a quarter-past 1, without turning a hair. *Ars longa* was a maxim invented for the boulevards.

A lady, as we all know, should never be asked for her reasons, especially when that lady is Mme. Bernhardt, whose career has given a new meaning to the word caprice. As to her choice, then, of Goethe's love-sick hero for her latest impersonation, one can only hazard a guess. Notoriously, she has of late conceived a passion for "breeches parts." And, with her, breeches seem to bring a melancholy life and lead to early death. She is apt to be (like Macbeth's dagger) breech'd in gore — and tears. There was her Hamlet and there was her Duc de Reichstadt, both neurasthenics who came to a sad end. Werther's is a case rather of hyperaesthesia, but he comes to an even worse end than the other two. And yet, one still asks, why Werther? Goethe's novel is said to have convulsed Europe and sent up the statistics of suicide; but that was a long time ago. In a century and a quarter Wertherism has assumed many shapes, and travelled very far from the broad simplicity of its original type. About ten years ago, however, the French stage revived its memories of that type when M. Massenet produced his opera of *Werther* by M. Pierre Decourcelle at the Théâtre Sarah Bernhardt.

The brilliant audience at the gala performance received the conclusion, and indeed the long string of melancholy maunderings which led up to it, with every sign of the heartiest enjoyment; but the question still has to be asked, Will *Werther* add anything to Mme. Bernhardt's reputation? It seems highly improbable. The whole tone and treatment of the play is quite undistinguished, and though the great actress herself can do nothing without distinction there is no side of her art to which her new part does justice. This Werther is not really a dramatic protagonist, but a brooding melancholy, a sickly smile, a prolonged wail. Unrelieved, hopeless woe is not drama, and suicide is mere melodrama, and where there is no drama but merely melodrama the genius even of a Sarah Bernhardt is little else than genius *bombinans in vacuo*.

US buys Russian fusion research

Continued from page 1

California, which is already responsible for much American fusion research. Thomas Simonen, director of tokamak programmes at General Atomics, said that the same work carried out in the United States would cost millions of dollars. A total of 116 scientists are believed to be covered by the contract, which means that each will be paid the equivalent of less than $1,000 a year.

By current Russian standards, this is good money. Entire institutes function on budgets equivalent to about $10,000 a year. Russian scientists working for the West are reluctant to accept large salaries for fear of provoking envy among their less fortunate colleagues.

The proposal that the Russian fusion scientists should work for the West was originally suggested by the Russians last November during a visit to Moscow by officials from the United States Energy Department. According to *The New York Times*, the officials have moved slowly to ensure that the proposal was financially, legally and politically acceptable. Dr Simonen said that the Russians were expected to return a signed contract soon but had already begun work.

A wider project, designed to support many more scientists in the former Soviet Union, is also under way. On Wednesday, the European Commission proposed that the member states of the European Community should participate in an International Science and Technology Centre in Moscow which would provide work for Soviet scientists, particularly nuclear experts who might otherwise be tempted to take their skills abroad.

The proposal is that the United States, the EC and Japan should each contribute $25 million towards the centre. That would buy an awful lot of science, to judge by the deal just struck by Washington.



Balloon venture: Branson with Per Lindstrand



Devilment: Branson with Para Deborah Ingle



Take-off: Branson kitted out in the flying gear of the pioneer pilot for another adventure

Right tune for tone-deaf Branson

Richard Branson, who sold out yesterday to Thorn EMI for £560 million, has become as famous as the pop stars he has produced on record, writes **Gillian Bowditch**

RICHARD Branson has never made any secret of the fact that he is tone deaf. So perhaps the surprising thing is not that he has sold Virgin Music Group, the business he started in his teens, to Thorn EMI for £560 million, but that it has taken him so long.

He may go skiing with Peter Gabriel and partying with Bryan Ferry but he has never properly appreciated their music. Thorn's chairman Colin Southgate has been shrewd enough to keep Mr Branson on as life-president at an undisclosed salary. The Virgin chairman, who is as famous as the artists he produces, has a reputation for wooing the stars and keeping them. He is proud of the fact that he has not lost an important artist in the past 20 years.

Last November he signed up the Rolling Stones for £25 million after a night of wining and dining at Mosimanns in Mayfair. On Thursday night, Mick Jagger was kind enough to ring Mr Branson and give the Thorn deal his blessing.

The first record he produced was Mike Oldfield's *Tubular Bells*, an instant best seller which has now sold seven million copies worldwide.

Since then Mr Branson has attracted some of the most famous names in the music industry. Phil Collins, Ferry, Janet Jackson, Belinda Carlisle and Paula Abdul are all on the Virgin label as are Genesis and Simple Minds. The label will remain separate from the Thorn label which produces Cliff Richard, Tina Turner, Hammer, Pink Floyd and Madness.

Mr Branson walks away from the deal with just under £400 million. Yesterday, the man who is believed to be the 17th richest person in Britain, said he was not the sort to put money in the bank and pledged that most of it would be spent on his "new love" Virgin Atlantic Airways.

"It's a good time to buy cheap planes," he said. Mr Branson's dream is to fly to "the 12 major cities in the world" and provide an alternative to British Airways. Yesterday he said he had not ruled out the possibility of floating the airline on the stock market again.

Mr Branson is not only treated like a superstar wherever he goes but he has a lifestyle which would be the envy of many a platinum-disc holder. In addition to a mansion in London's Holland Park, complete with indoor swimming pool, he has a large cottage in Oxfordshire, complete with indoor swimming pool.

He keeps pet otters in Oxfordshire for the benefit of his children, Holly and Sam, and is building a lake in the garden. He drives a bright blue handbuilt, but British, Bristol. For holidays, the family can get away to Necker Island, in the Caribbean, which Mr Branson bought several years ago and which was the setting for his marriage to Joan Templeman in 1989.

Thorn EMI deal, page 17
Flying cavalier, page 17
Tempus, page 20

Dealings of shot man are checked

Continued from page 1

had become the subject of a multi-million pound insurance claim. The Metropolitan police and forces from other European countries are believed to be involved in this investigation.

Det Supt Bob Denmark, who is leading the murder enquiry, said that Mr Wilson had worked for a firm in Darwen, Lancashire, and had other business interests which were being investigated. He refused to comment on speculation that Mr Wilson had recently been given police protection and had told police his life had been threatened. "We have spoken to a number of business associates but I do not wish to comment on any speculation about the nature of Mr Wilson's business dealings."

Mr Denmark also refused to comment on the gunmen's accents or what they said during the two hours awaiting Mr Wilson's return. He said that enquiries were being made with other forces about Mr Wilson. "Some of what we had been told suggests he has international business connections. He has wider reaching business interests."

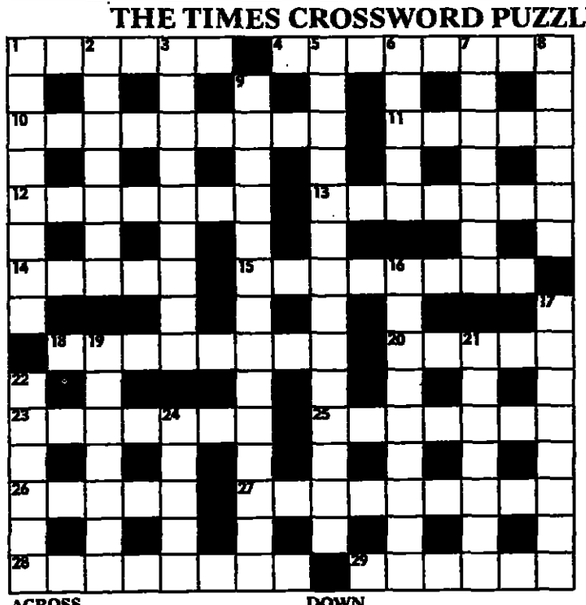
Mr Denmark said there was no evidence that the murder was a result of a bungled theft but nor was there evidence to suggest that the intruders were professional killers. However, the murder had the hallmarks of a carefully planned operation. The two men wore dark blue masks and fingerless mittens over surgical gloves. The telephone lines had been cut to the house, which stands in four acres, and to the nearest public telephone kiosk.

Police said that the two intruders were white and aged around 25. One was about 6ft and of medium build. The other man was about 5ft 8in and stocky.

Neighbours described the Wilsons as a lovely family who were well known in the village.

Photograph, page 3

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,860



ACROSS

1 Put restraint on hawk in fun, say (6).
4 It flew oddly, in a way, this little bird (8).
10 Author taking M.2, at length (4,5).
11 One of 6 with a complaint? It's not clear (5).
12 Suspicion one's linking with movement of the left (7).
13 Take a close look at cricket, say, round start of play (7).
14 Vessel carrying vital supplies from China or Taiwan (5).
15 International cover for decisive action (4,4).
18 The man behind the bar, i.e. composer (8).
20 Stick needed to administer a beating (5).
23 Really out of date? Nothing on this gets changed (2,5).
25 Noble ringleader in underground movement (7).
26 Leg revealed by a bit of light fabric (5).
27 Visible sign of nervousness? It may indicate a good deal (9).
28 Dance in 5s (8).
29 Free a French circus animal (6).

DOWN

1 Islander's pickle — top-quality preserve (8).
2 One who goes out but not back (7).
3 Trace exit in order to get out (9).
5 Suggestion on pawn it takes inspiration to play? (4,10).
6 The numbers game (5).
7 Like a newt? Initially at least (7).
8 Agreement to have feast on Fourth of July (6).
9 Snagged by climber, taken unawares (6,2,3,3).
16 Study about a fashion centre's rich trappings (9).
17 Informative film providing directions on dance (8).
19 One who analyses arsenic, for example, with hesitation (7).
21 Make reduction in wise man's payment to avoid conflict (7).
22 Contemptuous form of address upset one man in boat (6).
24 Have leaders of unsuccessful plot come clean? (3,2).

Concise Crossword, page 16
Weekend Times

Solution to Puzzle No 18,854

C	O	H	A	B	I	T		P	R	O	S	P	E	R
I		A		E		O		A		U		A		E
C	U	P	B	E	A	R	E	R		T	H	R	O	B
A		O		K		G				R		L		U
D	I	R	G	E		H	A	M	M	E	R	O	U	T
A		T		E		B		E				U		T
	S	H	E	P	H	E	R	D	S	P	U	R	S	E
D				E		A		I		A				D
I	N	T	E	R	P	R	E	T	A	T	I	O	N	
S		R				E		A		R		U		C
P	L	U	T	O	C	R	A	T		I	N	T	R	O
A		C		K				I		C		S		N
T	A	I	G	A		N	E	O	L	I	T	H	I	C
C		A		P		T		N		A		O		U
H	E	L	L	I	S	H		S	E	N	A	T	O	R

Solution to Puzzle No 18,859

K	N	O	C	K	D	O	W	N		D	E	B	U	T
N		G		I		V		E		R		I		R
A	B	R	I	D	G	E		T	H	I	S	T	L	E
V		E		N		R				F		T		A
E	R	I	C	A		T	E	M	P	T	R	E	S	S
		S		P		H		I				R		U
A	S	H		P	O	E	T	S	C	O	R	N	E	R
R				E		M		C		U				E
G	R	A	N	D	M	O	T	H	E	R		E	N	D
E		B				O		I		S		N		
N	E	S	C	I	E	N	C	E		E	C	L	A	T
T		O		N				V		L		A		R
I	L	L	E	G	A	L		O	B	V	E	R	S	E
N		V		O		A		U		E		G		A
E	V	E	N	T		D	U	S	T	S	H	E	E	T

PARKER DUOFOLD

A prize of a superb Parker Duofold International Fountain Pen, with an 18 carat gold nib and fully guaranteed for the lifetime of the original owner will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address.....

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

THEATRICALS

MINACK
a. An open air theatre
b. A New York minimal acting school
c. A Polish tragedian

EKKYKLEMA
a. An amphitheatre
b. The first stage machinery
c. A lost play of Euripides

INCHBALD
a. Early woman dramatist
b. Manager of the Globe
c. A wig to make an actor look bald

MELO
a. Portuguese dramatist
b. Music-hall star
c. A trap-door with lift

Answers on page 14

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE

C London (within N & S Circs)	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-M23	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts,Glouc's,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Hereffs & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 36p per minute (cheap rate) and 48p per minute at all other times.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: A Milne, Kelvin Court, Glasgow; M A Blake, Dakenham Close, Station Road, Salhouse, Norfolk; R Pye, Crosgrove Road, Walton, Liverpool; A Goodall, Elmlands Grove, York; S D Fletcher, Mayfield Road, Edinburgh.

WEATHER

The day will be generally mild and windy. Rain over Scotland, Northern Ireland, Wales and western England will turn more showery during the morning. Clearer conditions will spread into these western areas. The rain will spread eastwards, reaching eastern England by afternoon. As the rain turns more showery, central parts of England could see a little brightness after midday. Outlook: showery rain followed by sunny spells everywhere.

ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder; d=drizzle; fg=fog; s=sun; sl=sleet; sn=snow; f=fair; c=cloud; r=rain

	C	F			C	F	
Ajaccio	16	61	t	Majorca	15	59	f
Alicatifi	16	61	s	Malaga	17	63	s
Alex'dria	17	63	s	Malta	18	64	f
Algiers	15	59	c	Melb'rne	20	68	s
Amst'dm	9	48	s	Miami*	26	79	r
Athens	17	63	f	Milan	15	59	s
Bahrain	23	73	s	Montreal*	2	36	s
Bangkok	34	93	s	Moscow	3	28	c
Barbuda*	29	84	f	Munich	9	48	s
Barcelna	14	57	r	Nairobi	28	82	f
Beirut	16	61	f	Naples	15	59	r
Belgrade	13	55	s	N Delhi	26	79	s
Berlin	11	52	s	N York*	10	50	s
Bermuda*	21	70	s	Nice	14	57	r
Biarritz	13	55	c	Oslo	5	41	c
Borde'x	14	57	f	Paris	12	54	s
Brussels	10	50	f	Peking	6	46	s
Budapst	10	50	f	Perth	30	86	s
B Aires*	30	86	f	Prague	12	54	s
Cairo	20	68	s	Reykjavik	1	34	f
Chicago*	14	57	r	Rhodes	16	61	f
Ch'church	17	63	f	Riyadh	22	72	s
Cologne	9	48	c	Rome	16	61	c
C'phagn	8	43	s	Salzburg	10	50	r
Corfu	14	57	f	S Frisco*	12	54	r
Dublin	11	52	s	Santiago*	31	88	s
Faro	21	70	s	S Paulo*	27	81	c
Florence	16	61	c	Seoul	5	41	c
Frankfurt	13	55	c	Sing'por	28	82	r
Funchal	17	63	s	St'kholm	5	41	c
Geneva	10	50	c	Strasb'rg	14	57	s
Gibraltar	17	63	f	Sydney	28	73	s
Helsinki	-1	30	c	Tangier	17	63	s
Hong K	10	50	r	Tel Aviv	15	59	c
Innsbrck	9	48	f	Tenerife	19	66	c
Istanbul	9	48	f	Tokyo	12	54	c
Jeddah	26	79	s	Toronto*	10	50	f
Jo'burg*	25	77	s	Tunis	17	63	c
L Palmas	20	68	f	Valencia	14	57	f
Le Tquet	10	50	s	Vanc'ver*	11	52	c
Lisbon	16	61	s	Venice	7	45	fg
Locarno	17	63	c	Vienna	9	48	s
London	12	54	s	Warsaw	5	41	f
L Angels*	17	63	c	Wash'ton*	9	48	c
Luxembg	9	48	c	Wel'mon	18	64	f
Luxor	24	75	s	Zurich	10	50	c
Madrid	13	55	s				

* denotes figures are latest available

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Hunstanton, Norfolk, 13C (55F). Lowest day max: Inverbervie, Grampian, 07C (45F). Highest rainfall: Orsay, Strathclyde, 0.47 in. Highest sunshine: Penzance, Cornwall, 2.6 hr.

MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 12C (54F): min 6pm to 6am, 03C (37F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.08 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 8.0 hr.

GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 6am to 6pm, 11C (52F): min 6pm to 6am, 05C (41F). Rain: 24hr to 6pm, 0.3 in. Sun: 24hr to 6pm, 1.2 hr.

UK TOWNS

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	-	-	9	48	dull
Aviemore	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Belfast	0.1	0.09	10	50	rain
Birmingham	0.3	-	10	50	cloudy
Bognor Regis	-	-	8	46	dull
Bournemouth	-	0.01	10	50	drizzle
Bristol	-	0.03	11	52	rain
Buxton	-	-	8	46	cloudy
Edinburgh	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Eskdalemuir	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Exmouth	0.3	-	12	54	cloudy
Falmouth	1.0	0.04	11	52	shower
Folkestone	0.7	-	10	50	cloudy
Glasgow	-	0.03	10	50	drizzle
Jersey	-	-	10	50	cloudy
Kinloss	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Leeds	-	-	11	52	cloudy
Lerwick	-	0.02	9	48	rain
Tenby	-	0.11	10	50	cloudy
Tiree	-	0.26	9	48	rain
Torquay	0.3	-	12	54	bright
Wick	-	-	9	48	cloudy
Worthing	-	-	9	48	cloudy

These are Thursday's figures

CURRENCY RATES

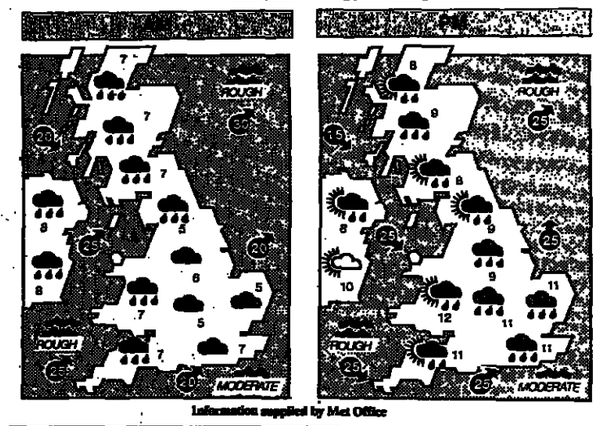
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.345	2.185
Austria Sch	21.20	19.70
Belgium Fr	61.75	57.75
Canada $	2.155	1.995
Denmark Kr	11.85	10.90
Finland Mkk	8.34	7.74
France Fr	10.20	9.50
Germany Dm	3.00	2.80
Greece Dr	345.00	320.00
Hong Kong $	13.95	12.95
Ireland Pt	1.122	1.052
Italy Lira	2256.00	2105.00
Japan Yen	243.25	224.25
Netherlands Gld	3.37	3.15
Norway Kr	11.81	11.01
Portugal Esc	257.50	239.50
South Africa Rd	5.40	4.80
Spain Pta	187.50	174.50
Sweden Kr	10.98	10.18
Switzerland Fr	2.72	2.54
Turkey Lira	10500.0	9500.0
USA $	1.815	1.685
Yugoslavia Dnr	DNB	DNB

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

YESTERDAY

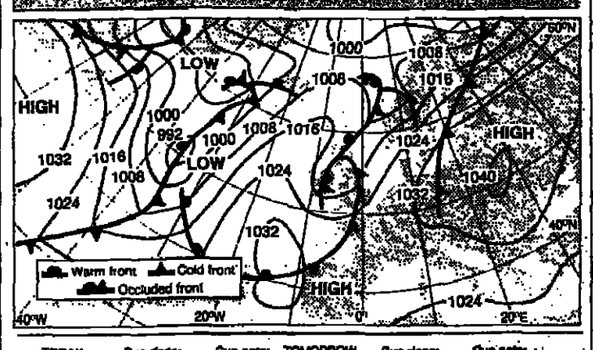
Temperatures at midday yesterday: c, cloud; f, fair; r, rain; s, sun.

	C	F			C	F	
Belfast	9	48	c	Guernsey	10	50	f
B'rmgham	10	50	f	Inverness	8	46	f
Blackpool	11	52	s	Jersey	11	52	s
Bristol	11	52	f	London	12	54	s
Cardiff	11	52	f	M'nchester	9	48	f
Edinburgh	11	52	f	Newcastle	10	50	s
Glasgow	10	50	f	R'nldsway	9	48	f



Information supplied by Met Office

NOON TODAY



TODAY	Sun rises:	Sun sets:	TOMORROW	Sun rises:	Sun sets:
	6.32 am	5.52 pm		6.30 am	5.54 pm
	Moon rises:	Moon sets:		Moon rises:	Moon sets:
	7.00 am	8.42 pm		7.21 am	10.56 pm
First quarter March 12			First quarter March 12		

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RSPB, The Lodge, Sandy, Beds SG19 2DL.

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YES I want to join the RSPB this winter.

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☐ £18 (Year's single membership).
Membership benefits: FREE BIRDTABLE, quarterly colour *Birds* magazine and free entry to over 100 RSPB nature reserves. (Retired person's rate: £9, excl free gift.)
A2437
I am paying the total of £..... by:
☐ Cheque/PO (payable to RSPB) ☐ Access/Visa
Card number: Expiry date:
Cardholder's signature.....
(Please attach address of cardholder if different from below)
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms..... (PLEASE PRINT)
Address.....
Postcode.....
Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms..... (joint member surname) Initials
Send to: The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, FREEPOST, Sandy, Beds SG19 2BR.
RSPB Reg Charity No 207076

THE TIMES
BUSINESS

SATURDAY MARCH 7 1992

BUSINESS EDITOR JOHN BELL

- BUSINESS NEWS 17-20,29,30
- WEEKEND MONEY 21-28
- SPORT 31-36

WEEKEND MONEY

Profile

The public face of Neil Clarke, chairman of British Coal, is stiff and formal, some would even say cold. In private, however, friends say he likes a joke, is huge fun and is really "as soft as butter". He admits to wishing that staff felt able to drop into his office on an informal basis or even to call him by his first name ..... Page 19



Fraud check

Users of plastic cards could be asked to supply fingerprints, signatures and voice recordings, to be stored on computer, as the battle against card fraud intensifies ..... Page 23

Dearer travel

Holidaymakers are facing increases of up to 25 per cent in travel insurance premiums this summer. Visitors to North America are likely to bear the brunt of the increases ..... Page 27



Letters ..... Page 28

Fair play

The Equal Opportunities Commission, chaired by Joanne Foster, wants to hear from all women who feel harshly treated in the move to equalise retirement ages. "Anyone who feels she has a good case against her employer should get in touch with us," the commission said. A survey has found that 60 per cent of employers have decided to equalise retirement ages at the higher limit. The commission believes such a decision may not be lawful ..... Page 25



Aids caution

Life assurance companies that increased term assurance premiums in line with Aids projections in the Eighties might be less willing to react to more optimistic evidence ..... Page 22

Favoured nations

Third World stock markets have become the latest attraction for fund managers. They are impressed by sharp rises in share prices in the wake of a series of economic reforms ... Page 24



Home truths

Building societies now admit they underestimated the size and severity of the housing downturn. They say they are hoping for Budget concessions to kick start the market ..... Page 21

Thorn to pay £510m for Virgin Music

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

RICHARD Branson, the entrepreneur who founded the Virgin Group, has sold his music businesses, formerly the core of the group, to Thorn EMI for £510 million. Thorn will also assume £50 million of the group's debt.

The deal will make Thorn first equal in the recorded music market with Time Warner and PolyGram and give it an 18 per cent share of the market worldwide. Thorn is already the market leader in music publishing.

Virgin Music's artists, including Paula Abdul, Belinda Carlisle, Phil Collins, Bryan Ferry and Simple Minds, will join Thorn, whose artists include Hammer, Tina Turner, Pink Floyd and Cliff Richard, although the Virgin label will operate independently. Mr Branson said artists such as Mick Jagger had given the deal their blessing and added that he was glad the group was going to a British company. "The artists should not notice any change," he said.

Mr Branson will use his stake of almost £400 million to build up Virgin Atlantic Airways, which he described as "my new love". The deal with Thorn means he no longer has to sell a stake in the airline, although he is still considering that possibility.

Thorn is paying for the acquisition by means of a one-for-four rights issue priced at 650p, which will raise £516 million. Colin Southgate, Thorn EMI's chairman, said that as nearly all the purchase price was for goodwill — Virgin has net assets of only £3.2 million — the decision was made to fund the deal by an issue of shares. Yesterday, Thorn's shares rose 25p to 810p.

The acquisition, which does not need shareholder approval, is dependant on clearance by the European Commission, which could take up to five months. The rights issue is, therefore, payable in two instalments.

Thorn is issuing one stock unit for every four shares held. The first instalment of 260p is payable by the end of this month. The second, of 390p, is payable on completion of the deal. The stock units will then convert into Thorn ordinary shares. If the deal does not go ahead, the second instalment will be cancelled and the stock units will convert into Thorn shares at the rate of two Thorn shares for every five stock units held. The £211 million raised from the first part of the issue will be used to reduce Thorn's borrowings.

Fujisankei Communications, the Japanese media group, which is Virgin Music Group's minority shareholder, is selling its 25 per cent stake to Thorn for £127.5 million. Fujisankei paid about £96 million for the stake in 1989. Kenneth Berry and Simon Draper, joint founders with Mr Branson, have also sold their stakes. They will continue to run Virgin Music and Mr Branson will be life president.

The music division of Virgin, which has a 4 per cent market share, was founded 20 years ago and had a turnover of £330 million in the year ended last July. Pre-tax profits were £13.3 million, down from £15.6 million. They have fallen steadily from £17.2 million in 1989 as the interest charge has risen. Last year, the tax charge was 96 per cent of pre-tax profits. After tax, the group made £483,000. When £980,000 of dividend had been paid, the music business made a loss of £501,000.

Mr Southgate said Thorn EMI, whose tax charge was about 30 per cent last year, would be able to bring the Virgin Music tax rate in line with its own. Virgin Music, which loses money in America, makes most of its profits in countries where the tax charge is high. Thorn EMI, which operates in 38 countries, will be able to offset Virgin Music's losses against profits it already makes.

When Virgin's distribution and manufacturing licences run out, mostly in mid-1993, they will be integrated with Thorn's existing business.

Tempus, page 18

SIMON WALKER



Concentrating on his "new love": Richard Branson arriving at Thorn EMI's headquarters yesterday

Flying cavalier indulges his passion

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

LIKE so many before him, Richard Branson has found that involvement in the airline industry is a powerful and addictive drug. He has the smell of kerosene in his nostrils and finds it irresistible. With £400 million in his back pocket, he will now be able to indulge his passion.

It is said that when you are in a recession you have to tighten your belt, when you have no belt to tighten you are in a slump and when your trousers are at your ankles you are in the airline industry — but, so far, Virgin Atlantic, and certainly Mr Branson, has no such embarrassment.

It has been a struggle since the airline was formed with a cavalier image and an appeal to the young in 1984. The expansion has been slow and careful, guided by Mr Branson's instinct for taking on the big boys. His rivals argue that they have to provide regular but loss-making services as well as the routes from which they scrape their meagre profits. Mr Branson has targeted the few air routes where demand is high and profits more or less assured.

Last year, he moved into Heathrow, which cost millions and plunged the airline into a £3 million loss in the year to last July. Nonetheless, his Voyager group, which includes cargo and holidays, made a £775,000 profit in one of the most difficult years for aviation. Officials now believe he is heading for vastly improved profits.

Two potential investors are in talks about a possible 20 per cent stake in the airline and the money from the record business has enabled Mr Branson to take a relaxed attitude to whether they are taken up or not.

Sterling threat to rate cut hope

BY COLIN NARBROUGH

CONCERN in the foreign exchange market about the Budget and the government's re-election prospects kept the pound pinned to the bottom of the exchange-rate mechanism, dampening hopes of an early base rate cut.

Although City analysts rule out a sterling crisis, many fear that Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, would be taking a risk in seeking a pre-election monetary easing if the pound stays weak after the Budget.

The pound stood at DM2.8700 at the official close, unchanged on Thursday, having been about half a pfennig weaker. The trade-weighted index slipped 0.1 to 89.9.

Markets were unimpressed by a large revision to official invisible earnings figures for the final quarter of 1991 that pushed down the annual current account deficit to £4.42 billion, the smallest shortfall since 1987. This compared with the initial estimate of a £5.8 billion deficit.

The Treasury welcomed the revision in the surplus on invisible items from a projected £900 million to £1.92 billion in the fourth quarter. This took the invisible surplus for 1991 to £5.72 billion from £3.17 billion in 1990.

But the narrowing of the fourth-quarter current account deficit to £642 million from a £1.24 billion deficit the previous quarter was greeted with scepticism in the City. Half the improvement stemmed from a £500 million payment by the European Community, reflecting the impact of recession on British growth.

THE POUND

US dollar
1.7155 (–0.0015)
German mark
2.8700 (same)
Exchange index
89.9 (–0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share
1968.6 (–2.0)
FT-SE 100
2533.1 (–5.2)
New York Dow Jones
3236.58 (–4.92)*
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
20992.99 (+128.57)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 10½%
3-month interbank 10½-10⅜%
3-month eligible bills: 10 1/16-10 1/32%
US: Prime Rate 6½%
Federal Funds 3 15/16%*
3-month Treasury Bills 4.05-4.03%*
30-year bonds 100 1/32-100 2/32*

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£ $1.7140	£: $1.7185*
£ DM2.8692	$: DM1.6695*
£ SwFr2.6078	$: SwFr1.5158*
£: FFr9.7404	$: FFr5.6725*
£ Yen225.98	$ Yen131.80*
£ Index 89.9	$: Index:65.2
ECU £0.713083	SDR £0.794499
£ ECU1.402361	£: SDR1.258654

London forex market close

GOLD

London Fixing:
AM $350.55 pm-$349.40
close $349.50-350.00 (£203.80-204.30)
New York:
Comex $350.15-350.65*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Mar) .... $17.45 bbl ($17.35)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 135.6 January (1987=100)

* Denotes midday trading price

Redland raises its offer for Steetley

BY MARTIN WALLER

REDLAND raised its offer for Steetley, the building materials business, to £622 million and included a full cash alternative for the first time.

The increased offer was made a day after Steetley had been forced to admit a £40 million write-off stemming from a French acquisition. Many analysts believe that significantly weakened its case.

The new Redland terms are not especially generous. The offer is 87 new shares for every 100 of Steetley's, against December's initial bid of 85 shares, worth 389p a share at Redland's closing price yesterday. Steetley shares responded with a 3p rise to 380p. Steetley shareholders can also elect to take 365p a share in cash. Steetley hastily convened a board meeting to consider a response; meanwhile, shareholders were urged to take no action.

It is thought unlikely that the board will accept the raised offer, but the stock market gives the bid a fair chance of success anyway.

"On balance we think they are going to get it," said Andrew Melrose, building analyst at Nomura Research. Steetley's defence had been weak and had not presented a cogent argument for continued independence.

Robert Napier, Redland's chief executive, said his company had made no effort to reach agreement with Steetley over the raised bid. "We didn't think their defence merited any more," he said.

Lime Street directors given big bonuses

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

FOUR directors of Lime Street Underwriting Agencies, the Lloyd's members' agent responsible for placing hundreds of names on some of the worst performing syndicates in the market, paid themselves £400,000 in bonuses only weeks before Lloyd's announced its biggest ever loss.

Yesterday, at a meeting of the creditors of the agent, which has been placed in voluntary liquidation, names heard how the payments were agreed in the middle of last June, shortly before the company was sold to the Bankside agency group, another Lloyd's agency.

Richard Gethin-Jones, one of the directors of Lime Street, said the bonuses represented redundancy payments in advance of the acquisition of the company. Mr Gethin-Jones received a £100,000 bonus; a bonus of £150,000 was paid to Patrick Corbett; Robert Hallam received £50,000 and Robin Kingsley was paid £100,000.

When asked if the directors were aware of the scale of the 1988 losses when the decision to pay the bonuses was taken, Mr Kingsley said he had been "aware of the generality of what was coming through", but not the official figures, which were announced on June 26.

Many of the 350 names represented by Lime Street last year are bringing legal actions against the agency. Estimated losses and cash calls suffered by the names to date total £250 million.

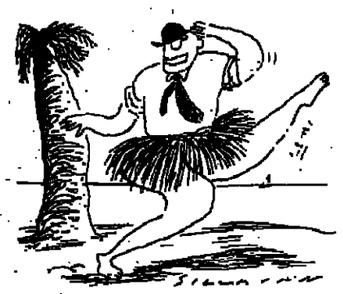
Curtain call for the City slickers

BY JON ASHWORTH

THERE is nothing like a dame — or should that be name? City gents without a wry sense of humour are in for an uncomfortable evening when the Stock Exchange Dramatic & Operatic Society stages *South Pacific*.

Angus Blair, UK analyst at Baring Securities, takes the stage at the Shaw Theatre, north London, on March 17 for a five-night run. William Harrison-Wallace of Warburg Securities; Jeremy Lewis of Seymour, Pierce, Butterfield; and Geraldine White of the Stock Exchange will don their costumes for what promises to be a fun-filled week away from their screens.

Members of Lloyd's who can stump up the £7.50 entrance fee (cheaper seats are available on Saturday) may experience a sense of *déjà vu* when the cast breaks into *There Is Nothing Like A (Name)*: "We feel restless, we feel blue, we feel lonely and in brief, we feel every kind of feeling but the feeling of relief."



Like the cold sweat of opening one's post to find yet another demand for payment. Times were never like this!

It may be 43 years since the musical was written, but the songs have lost none of their significance. Which fallen tycoon has not found himself humming: *This Nearly Was Mine*? Which top PR man has not tapped his feet to the tune of *Communication Discontinued*?

Imagine a cast drawn from the biggest names in politics and industry. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, would capture hearts with that fine opening number, *A Cockeyed Optimist*. "I have heard people rant and rave and bellow — That we're done and we might as well be dead: But I'm only a cockeyed optimist and I can't get it into my head."

For the average British citizen, beset by gloom, comes the haunting strains of *Bali Ha'i* — "Most people live on a lonely island, lost in the middle of a foggy sea." And for the Labour party, an upbeat version of *Happy Talk* — "Happy talk, keep talking, happy talk, talk about t'ings you'd like to do. You got to have a dream, if you don't have a dream, how you gonna have a dream come true?"

Britain's economists could take the stage with their version of *Honey Bun*, otherwise dubbed *An Ode to ERM* — "Where she's narrow she's narrow as an arrow, and she's broad where a broad should be broad". And who better to close the show than Kevin and Ian Maxwell, breaking their silence in song with an obvious choice — *I'm Gonna Wash That Man Right Out-a My Hair*.

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Nestlé bid for Perrier a step closer to success

BY WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU
EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

NESTLÉ, the Swiss food company, won an important legal victory in its takeover bid for Perrier, when a French regional court decided to annul voting rights of shares held by Exor, Nestlé's adversary in the bid.

The commercial court in Nîmes ordered the suspension of one third of Exor's voting stock for two years, thus giving Nestlé a possible gateway to acquiring the majority of Perrier.

At present, Exor, which is controlled by Italy's Agnelli family, controls 35.5 per cent of Perrier stock, but the ruling has reduced the voting stake to 23.7 per cent. The 35.5 per cent stake is held by Exor itself and by two companies associated with it, Ominco and Geneval, which are investment vehicles controlled by Société Générale, the French bank.

This court case is one of two that Nestlé needed to win to secure control of Perrier. The other, which is currently being fought in Paris, relates to a 13.8 per cent stake held by another Exor ally, Saint Louis, a sugar manufacturer.

The stakes held by the Exor grouping and Saint Louis amount to just under half of Perrier's stock. It is therefore important for Nestlé to persuade the court to annul all, or at least a substantial part, of the voting rights associated with this stock if it is to stand a chance of gaining control of Perrier.

Yesterday's decision amounts, however, only to a partial victory, since Nestlé had asked the court to annul the Exor grouping's entire stake.

Gilles Ray, president of the Nîmes commercial court, defended the decision on the ground that Exor and its associates had failed to inform the authorities when they raised their stakes above 33.3 per cent, which, under French law, automatically triggers a bid for two thirds of the target company's shares.

After the ruling, the share of votes controlled by the Exor grouping, including Saint Louis, has been reduced from 49.3 per cent to 42.5 per cent. That remains a formidable voting block capable of scuppering a hostile bid.

Although the court annulled a third of Exor's stake, equivalent to 11.8 per cent, the effective impact on the total voting block of the Exor grouping is smaller because the number of voting shares is reduced by the same amount.

Although Nestlé has scored an important victory, it also needs at least some success in persuading the Paris commercial court to annul Saint Louis' 13.5 per cent stake in Perrier.

Saint Louis, in which the Agnelli family is a shareholder, bought the stake directly from Perrier, where it was held as treasury stock, just before Nestlé's takeover bid in January.

Nestlé alleges that Saint Louis was aware of the forthcoming bid, and is therefore pressing the court to annul the voting rights. However, Nestlé has already suffered one setback in this case, with a public prosecutor's statement recommending that Saint Louis should retain its voting rights.

The bid battle for Perrier is one of the most complicated in the history of European mergers. The situation surrounding Perrier has so far attracted four takeover bids, two for Perrier itself — by Nestlé and Exor — and another two for Exor by the Agnellis, who are already the largest shareholders, and BSN, the French food group and a Nestlé ally.

Foster's shares decline

REPORTS that Peter Bartels, chief executive of Foster's brewing company, had resigned pushed shares 4 cents lower to $1.92.

But there was speculation that the reported resignation may not have been accepted because no statement was issued to the Australian Stock Exchange last night. It is understood the issue will be resolved next week and a formal statement issued.

Mr Bartels's reported move follows the growing rift between Foster's management and shareholder representatives on the board. The largest shareholding in Foster's is International Brewing Holdings led by John Elliott, the former Foster's chief executive.

IBH has criticised company strategy and pushed for an increase in dividend payouts to ease its own difficulties. IBH is more than Aus $3 billion (£1.32 billion) in debt and the dividends are its only source of income.

Ted Kunkel, the executive chairman of the Molson joint venture in Canada, is reported to be the frontrunner to replace Mr Bartels who has been chief executive since May 1990 when he replaced Mr Elliott, who is deputy chairman. Mr Elliott is tipped to take over as chief executive of one of the country's biggest retailers.

Arlen sells

ARLEN, the electrical accessories group, continues to refocus core activities by selling its Centrepiece Engineering subsidiary to a management team for £780,000. The disposal is subject to shareholders' approval. An extraordinary loss of about £460,000 is expected, because of the difference between the consideration received and the carrying value of Centrepiece in Arlen's accounts.

Power increase

South Wales Electricity is raising the price of electricity bought by residential and small commercial customers on the tariff by 1.9 per cent for meter readings after April 1 — less than allowed under its regulatory formula. The company is also reducing the cost to suppliers of using its local distribution system by 3.7 per cent for quarterly billed electricity.

Sidlaw invests

Sidlaw Group, the Scottish oil services and packaging group, is investing £3 million in printing and production equipment at its Venus Flexible Packaging subsidiary. The shares rose 2p to 260p.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"Branson's sale of Virgin Music is the largest single cash sale ever done by an individual in Britain. It means that in a single generation he has become richer than the Rothschilds, the Guinnesses — and the Queen. And he is still only 41 . . ."

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow

TIM BISHOP



Knight to the rescue: Sir Peter Michael, chairman, led Cray's resurgence

Cray buys software house

BY MARTIN BARROW

CRAY Electronics, the high technology group that failed in a £111 million attempt to take over SD-Scicon last year, is buying Autofile, a privately owned software house, for £16.8 million.

The acquisition is to be funded through the issue of 27.8 million new shares. An initial 23.58 million shares are being placed at 61p a share; the balance will be retained by the sellers for at least 12 months.

Cray shareholders can subscribe for one new share for every 4.5 existing shares at the placing price. The shares were unchanged at 67p. The sellers also receive a dividend of £1.5 million. Cray, which returned to profit last year after encountering difficulties in the late Eighties, has promised to pay a dividend of 0.5p for the year to the end of April.

This will be the first payout to shareholders since a final dividend for the year to April 1989 was withdrawn after accounting problems were found.

Sir Peter Michael, chairman, who has led Cray back from the verge of collapse, said: "It is only a small dividend but we hope it shows good faith to those shareholders who have stood by the company." Autofile, based in Slough, Berkshire, develops and markets software systems for the travel industry and offers a package of services encompassing software maintenance and facilities management.

ATOP, the company's flagship system, is a leading holiday reservation system for tour operators.

In 1991 the company increased pre-tax profit from £1.89 million to £2.25 million on sales up from £12.39 million to £16.06 million. Overseas sales represented 21 per cent of turnover. Net assets at the year-end were £4 million, including net cash of £1.3 million.

Liquidator files writs over BCCI audits

BY NEIL BENNETT
BANKING CORRESPONDENT

TOUCHE Ross, the liquidator of the collapsed Bank of Credit and Commerce International, is suing Ernst & Young, the rival accountancy firm, for negligence and breach of contract over its auditing of the bank's 1986 accounts.

Writs were filed by Touche in the High Court in London yesterday on behalf of BCCI, against Ernst & Young, Ernst & Whinney, its predecessor, and several individuals involved in the BCCI audit. The firm is expected to take action against Price Waterhouse, BCCI's other auditor, later this month.

Touche Ross was forced to take action since there is a five-year statute of limitations under Luxembourg law and it wanted to keep open the option of legal action. Ernst & Whinney signed off BCCI's 1986 accounts on March 10, 1987, five years ago next Tuesday.

Ernst & Whinney audited BCCI Holdings and its subsidiary BCCI SA, both of which were Luxembourg-registered companies, until 1986, when it was replaced by Price Waterhouse.

BCCI's annual report that year showed pre-tax profits of $115.6 million and assets of $17.5 billion, although the Bank of England has since stated that the scale of the fraud that took place in the bank meant that it might never have been profitable in its entire history.

BCCI was closed down by international bank regulators last July after the discovery of a massive fraud. The bank had used false loans and secret deposits to conceal large bad debts and treasury losses.

PW is also likely to face legal action from the Abu Dhabi government, BCCI's main shareholder, later this year.

Under the terms of the scheme of arrangement between Touche Ross and Abu Dhabi for compensating BCCI's depositors, the Abu Dhabi government has the right to pursue claims against the accountancy firm on behalf of the bank.

Lep banks to swap debt for equity

BY MARTIN BARROW

LEP Group, the freight forwarding and property group, has obtained agreement in principal for the restructuring of debt from its principal bankers which look set to emerge with a controlling interest in the company.

The company also announced yesterday that David James will become chairman and chief executive after the restructuring proposals are implemented. Mr James, a company doctor, has participated in negotiations with the banks on behalf of Lep. He will continue as chairman and chief executive of Davies and Newman and as chairman of Eagle Trust, two companies he has rescued from the brink collapse.

The refinancing proposals need approval by shareholders, including ADT, the security and car auction group that speaks for 27 per cent. The proposals are for the conversion into equity of up to £180 million of Lep's debt, including obligations arising from letters of credit associated with Lep's American property interests, of £530 million. Banks would extend facilities for up to three years and maintain adequate working capital, deferring certain interest payments.

Peter Grant, who will continue as chairman until Mr James arrives, said the restructuring removed the need for immediate asset disposals. The company was withdrawing from the sale of The National Guardian Corporation, the American security business considered to be Lep's best asset. The shares rose from 10p to 14p.

Public sector strikes loom in Germany

BY OUR EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

GERMANY'S public sector unions have threatened to launch the "hot phase" of the present wage dispute this weekend after the third round of the pay talks collapsed.

The latest round broke down on Thursday night after the unions, representing 2.3 million public employees, rejected a 3.5 per cent offer as unacceptable. The unions demanded about 9.5 per cent.

The dispute comes amid growing industrial unrest. The postal union yesterday rejected a 3.5 per cent offer by the state-owned postal service as "insulting", while the banking unions ordered 35,000 bank employees to strike in defence of a 10.5 per cent pay claim.

DAG, the white collar union, called warning strikes in the public sector from next week. ÖTV, the main public sector union, will hold a meeting today to decide when to hold warning strikes and possibly to pave the way for a strike ballot.

The tough negotiating position taken by the employers reflects the government's wish to send a signal to the rest of the economy in an attempt to keep wage settlements below 5 per cent.

Despite their big pay demands, German unions made clear they are looking for wage settlements in excess of 6 per cent, along the lines of a 6.4 per cent deal in the steel sector. The deal has been criticised by the government and the Bundesbank as "not fitting in the economic landscape" because settlements in excess of 5 per cent would put further pressure on inflation.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TV-am faces closure decision early next year

TV-AM, the Camden-based breakfast television operator that lost its ITV franchise last year, will be wound up early in 1993 if no suitable opportunities to carry on as a trading company present themselves before then, Bruce Gyngell, the chairman and managing director, said yesterday. The company already has £48 million in cash, and analysts have forecast that it will be able to make a distribution to shareholders of more than 90p a share by this time next year.

TV-am is exploring a number of options "that would fit with our experience and talents", Mr Gyngell said, and has applied for a Teletext licence and a radio licence. The company announced pre-tax profits for the 11 months to end-December of £12.5 million, compared with £26 million for the previous 12 months. The dividend is maintained at 14p. (See Tempus below).

Receivers called in

MONOTYPE Corporation, which supplies pre-press printing equipment to the publishing industry, has been put into administrative receivership. A hundred people, a third of the workforce, are losing their jobs. The receivers are John Talbot and Anthony Brierley, partners of Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm. They said Monotype had made unsuccessful attempts to cut losses and to find additional funding. The receivers intend to keep the worldwide distribution network going while looking for a buyer for the business. Two British subsidiaries, GB Techniques and Sinclair Imaging Systems, are not in receivership but are expected to be put up for sale.

Anglovaal slips back

ANGLOVAAL, a South African mining group, saw pre-tax profits in the six months to December 31 slip to R398.6 million (£79.6 million), compared with R412.9 million last time. The company said weak market conditions would keep earnings under pressure in 1991-2. Turnover grew to R4.11 billion, against R3.84 billion last time. Earnings per share climbed to 240c (227c). The interim dividend is being raised to 33c, up from 30c. Anglovaal said several developments in which it is involved were proceeding well.

Net assets rise 123%

LATIN American Investment Trust increased net asset value by 123 per cent, making it Britain's best performing investment trust in 1991, its first full year. Net assets rose from 79.5 cents a share to $1.77 in the 12 months to December 31. There was a further 19 per cent rise in net asset value between the year-end and February 25. There is a maiden dividend of 50 cents a share. Earnings were 17 cents a share, compared with 67 cents for the final five months of 1990. The trust was launched in July of that year.

Trust deeper in red

PROPERTY Trust, a USM-quoted group, unveiled first-half losses of more than £6 million. It plans a capital reorganisation before seeking a full listing. Provisions relating to a review of development property assets were largely responsible for a pre-tax loss of £6.32 million in the six months to September 30 (£703,000 loss). Turnover declined from £734,000 to £600,000. The loss per share deepened from 0.05p to 0.42p. Again there is no dividend. The shares firmed ¼p to ¾p.

Bond misses deadline

ALAN Bond committed an act of bankruptcy by failing to meet a deadline last night to pay US$194 million owed to a group of banks. This enables his creditors to file a petition to have a trustee appointed to his estate. The default took place after counsel for Mr Bond failed to convince a judge in the Australian federal court on Thursday to give Mr Bond an extension to pay the debt. Mr Bond's counsel lodged an appeal against this rejection. The appeal will be heard before the full bench of the federal court next Thursday.

SIB complaint plan

The Securities and Investments Board has announced a streamlined complaints procedure for investors in investment bond-type home income plans. Those recommended these schemes by members of the Financial Intermediaries Managers and Brokers Regulatory Association will be able to pursue all their complaints through the association even if their complaint includes the insurance company that sold the investment bond or the solicitor which dealt with mortgage documents.

Amic slide goes on

ANGLO American Industrial Corporation (Amic), the industrial arm of South Africa's Anglo American group, saw earnings decline for the second year in 1991. Pre-tax profits fell to R606 million (£121 million) from R759 million. The total dividend is maintained at 350 cents, with an unchanged final of 240 cents, despite a fall in earnings from 836 to 731 cents a share. Amic said the end of sanctions against South Africa was not expected to deliver immediate financial benefits because of the world recession.

TEMPUS



Growing cash pile: Bruce Gyngell of TV-am

Virgin takeover is sweet music for Thorn

IN any other industry, the deal which Thorn EMI struck with Virgin yesterday would be considered crazy. Thorn is paying £510 million for a business with net assets of £3.2 million and post-tax profits of £483,000. Even assuming a nominal tax rate of 35 per cent for Virgin, Thorn is paying around 60 times earnings. Virgin Music's actual tax rate was 96 per cent of pre-tax profits last year.

The advertising agency deals of the mid-Eighties spring to mind. While Saatchi and WPP were paying in instalments for goodwill, intangible assets were walking out the door.

In the world of recorded music, however, yesterday's deal was hailed as a triumph for Thorn, whose shares rose 25p to 810p, despite news of a £516 million rights issue. On closer inspection the market is probably right. Virgin is the last independent record producer to come up for sale. It has a catalogue of artists the envy of its rivals and while it may still be classed as intangible, Virgin Music's back catalogue is a secure revenue producing asset that accounted for 35 per cent of its £330 million turnover last year.

Thorn is doing the sensible thing and funding the acquisition with a rights issue. Its borrowings on a pro forma basis grow from 60 per cent to 70 per cent and as the music business is strongly cash generative, this is a level it can comfortably endure.

While the assets may be intangible, the synergies for Thorn are very real. Derek Brock at Nomura calculates that Thorn can lift Virgin Music's £21 million operating profits to £61 million in the year ending March 1993. Virgin music's distribution and manufacturing, now farmed out to third parties, will be taken in-house.

In one swoop Thorn takes market share from 14 per cent to 18 per cent and gains the benefits of negotiating power from being the joint number one player. Virgin's tax charge will come down to around 21 per cent as Thorn offsets Virgin's American losses against its own profits there. Thorn's profits last year were £111 million and have grown from around £3 million in 1986. If its music business were valued on the same basis as that of Virgin's it would be worth £2.5 billion.

Nomura is forecasting pre-tax profits of £355 million for the year to March 1993, which puts Thorn shares, assuming an ex-rights price of 755p, on 13.8 times earnings. Assuming profits of £425 million the following year, the shares are trading on a p/e ratio of 11.5. Shareholders, promised a final dividend of at least 21.5p, should take up their rights.

TV-am

IT WAS with facetious understatement that Bruce Gyngell, the chairman and managing director of TV-am, followed his glowing report to shareholders on the many achievements of the company in 1991 with the throw-away observation that the year "was marred by not becoming the breakfast television licensee from 1992 onwards".

Mr Gyngell could offer shareholders little guidance on what the prospects for their investment might be. The company has pinned its hopes primarily on its applications for the National Public Teletext Service licence and the Second Independent National licence, decisions on both of which are expected next month.

Mr Gyngell says that other "options" are being explored in the UK and overseas. However, if no appropriate opportunity comes along, Mr Gyngell will distribute TV-am's growing cash pile, which already stands at £48 million, to shareholders and wind up the company in about a year's time.

Pre-tax profits fell from £26 million in the year to end-January 1991 to £12.5 million in the 11 months to end-December. Profits were hit by the poor advertising market, the £3.5 million costs associated with TV-am's coverage of the Gulf war and £4.2 million of exceptional redundancy and restructuring costs.

If these one-off costs and an extra month of advertising revenue are added in, the underlying profit is only slightly down. The final dividend remains at 10p, making a same-again, but uncovered, payout of 14p for the year.

Ironically, TV-am could be in for rather a good year. Costs have been slashed, with staff numbers reduced from 400 to about 140, and overseas news bureaux axed. In addition, advertisers appeared to have remained loyal and revenue is actually ahead of budget.

Up to a further £70 million of revenue could flow into TV-am's coffers by the year end. On the reduced cost base, trading profits on those revenues could easily boost the cash pile to £65 million, or between 95p and £1 a share. The shares, standing at 92p, are, therefore, well underpinned, even if Mr Gyngell is unable to find a new role for his company.

BUSINESS PROFILE: Neil Clarke

Man of coal who can take the heat

British Coal's chairman tells Carol Leonard of the industry's changing culture and marketplace

Neil Clarke, the chairman of British Coal, rises from behind his desk, extends a stiff but powerful arm then sits on a small, functional sofa. His shoulders are square, his back straight and he crosses his legs at the knee.

Two hours later, at the end of the interview, when most subjects would have slumped, slouched, put their feet up on a coffee table or, at least, removed their jackets, Clarke's posture remains unchanged.

He puffs intermittently on a large Havana cigar, fiddles continuously with a small box of matches in his right hand, and, as he does so, his hand shakes.

Clarke, a man who has survived more than his fair share of corporate heat — he ran Charter Consolidated, the mining finance group, in the sanction-stricken Eighties, and then, at the Bank of England's request, rescued Johnson Matthey Bankers — looks decidedly nervous. He might deny he was nervous, but he would readily admit that he was ill at ease.

Clarke does not particularly like journalists, nor does he court publicity. He finds it difficult to relax with anybody bar a small circle of personal friends, all of long-standing. He does not relish the high public profile that goes with his new job. He finds public speaking "an effort". He says that people do not yet recognise him in the street and that he would "rather they did not".

Ask any industrialist whose path might have crossed Clarke's at a luncheon, dinner or business meeting, for their impression of him and they will say that he is dry, cold, difficult to converse with and, as a consequence, a seemingly impossible person with whom to build a meaningful, personal relationship.

Clarke, aged 57, would shake his head in disagreement with all the above. So too would his small band of friends. However, even some of them have observed a change in Clarke's superficial persona when in a business environment, which would make the description appear true. The BBC's *Panorama* programme this week described him as a "cold accountant". Clarke counters: "No, I am not a cold accountant at all," explaining that he is a businessman who uses accountancy as a tool rather than an accountant for accountancy's sake. He completely ignores the question of personal warmth.

"It is very difficult to see yourself as other people see you," he says. "I am sometimes described as austere. We do live simply, but I wouldn't say frugally. As you can see, I enjoy cigars and wine and other good things but, God, we are paying people off in this industry who have worked for us for many years because we can't employ as many. They get what are described as generous terms. I would say that they are good terms and far better than any other business making people redundant, but I think it would be utterly hypocritical for us to have a lavish corporate lifestyle." Again, he steers the conversation away from the more personal question of his image, to that of the corporation.

> 'He would find it impossible to be vindictive. He likes a joke, is very jolly and huge fun'

There is a stiffness about Clarke, an air of formality, so deeply ingrained that it creates a barrier, protecting the inner man from the outside world.

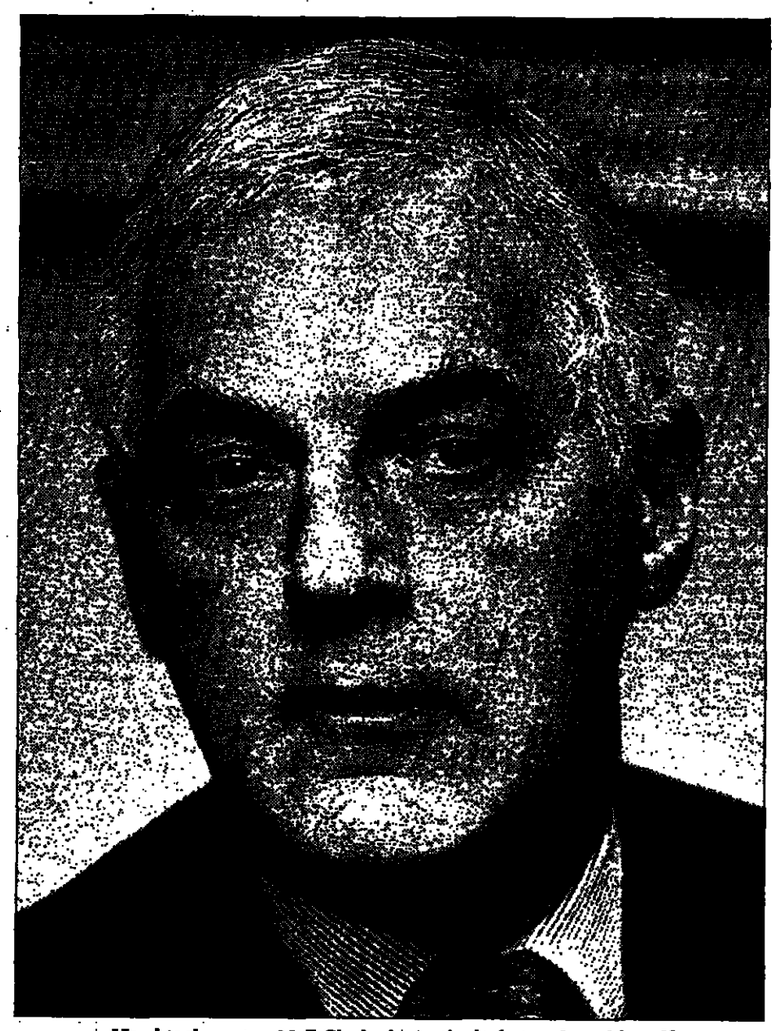
"It's just that I am a private person, I suppose." Clarke laughs uneasily. "I don't have a protective front when I am at home with friends. Of course I can relax in the office. I have an open door, I am usually in shirt sleeves and I go and chat with my staff. At the same time — and I don't want to sound stuffy about it — but in any job, when you get to this level, whether you like it or not, you are basically a figurehead. You cannot separate the person from the office he holds."

Clarke, appointed to British Coal in January last year by John Wakeham, the energy secretary, was not the government's first choice. Some people still express their surprise at his appointment. But all other candidates were deterred by the enormity of the task. Clarke, obviously, was not. He loves a challenge, is nothing if not determined, and needs to succeed. He plays golf and tennis regularly, with tremendous energy and enthusiasm and is not always a good loser.

Clarke has grown used to success. His career path is impressive. He qualified as an accountant with Rowley Pemberton Roberts in 1959, was made a partner a year later, left to join Charter Consolidated in 1969, and, within 12 years, had gone from being head of taxation to finance director, chief executive and then deputy chairman. He is not without ambition.

The nature of British Coal's business was not entirely alien to Clarke. Two of Charter's divisions had been suppliers to British Coal. "I had had a lot of experience of companies having to face major change. Yes, I have been through the fire before, but with nothing like the same intensity. You have to learn very quickly."

He explains that the difficulty facing him now is that all of British Coal's problems have come to a head at once. "We have got to try to do everything at the same time: to reduce capacity, which means decreasing the number of people that work in the business; to renegotiate the contracts with our major customers, which take over 80 per cent of our product; to improve productivity and that, at the same time, requires a tremendous change in culture, but a progressive change, not a violent change. I don't think I have ever seen any company that had all four of those challenges, all requiring to be managed at the same time." He has little doubt, however, that he will succeed eventually. "I do think it is do-able," he says.



Hard taskmaster: Neil Clarke is particularly tough on himself

Clarke is clear about the future that faces British Coal. Staff numbers will be down to 60,000 by its year end, on March 31, 10,000 less than when he started. Six years ago, British Coal employed 200,000 people. Turnover remains almost £4 billion, production is running at about 87 million tonnes, productivity has risen from three and a half tonnes per man shift in 1985 to — as of last week — six tonnes, and last year's profit of £78 million will be exceeded this year. "It undoubtedly has been a very great institution as a nationalised industry, but one which didn't have to worry a great deal about the commercial side," Clarke says.

"To produce coal was the all, because it was sold to an equivalent — another nationalised industry.

"Now, it is having to exist in a very hard commercial marketplace and so we are having to bring together production and marketing and give a higher focus to the financial side, and change the culture from being inward looking and proud of its traditions to being more outward looking. From being a giant institution, part of national life, to a smaller but very effective coal mining and coal selling company."

If British Coal's business was not alien to Clarke, the culture within it certainly was. He admits that it is very different from working in the private sector. Although he operates an open-door policy in his office, his new colleagues do not, as yet, come in to see him without making an appointment. "It's such a complete contrast. It is more formal, more structured. I think I much prefer to have people wandering up and down my corridor, dropping in to talk to me."

Another difference is that they do not call him by his christian name. "There's a great tradition of the gaffer here, of the boss. Even some of my colleagues who are executive directors always call me chairman or boss."

He refuses to be drawn on the recent resignation of one of those senior colleagues, Malcolm Edwards, British Coal's commercial director, save to say that Edwards had known of his impending departure since November. "For a number of reasons, which I believe to be right and sound, I didn't believe that Malcolm was the right man for the future. I certainly have the team I want here now." He foresees no further resignations.

Clarke is steadfast when it comes to taking tough decisions. He is a man whose vocabulary does not include the word compromise. He also exercises the same tough judgment on his own life. His friends would say that he is far tougher with himself — and perhaps his eldest son, since he is, arguably, seen as an extension of himself — than anybody or anything else. Clarke attributes it to his schooling at Rugby, where his parents sent him despite the "considerable material sacrifice" that that necessitated.

"You absorbed the fact that self-discipline, self-application, self-development and self-organisation were very important. Every right had an obligation, every privilege had a duty."

Although Clarke is a committed Catholic — as is his wife, Sonia, and all three of their sons — he has a strong sense of the Protestant, almost Calvinistic, work ethic. They live in a Twenties house in Kent, bought 20 years ago, and have no interest in moving to a more lavish property. Friends are surprised to find Clarke absorbed in do-it-yourself at weekends, and are still amused by the memory of him removing his socks on a golf course to retrieve a stray golf ball from a pond. It is almost as if he is afraid of the wealth he has acquired.

John Newth, the senior partner at Carter Lemon, the law firm, and a friend since university days, says: "He is not tight fisted, far from it, he is very generous, but he is a good negotiator and he seems to have a certain sense of pride in not being taken advantage of and not wasting money. He does the Harrods sale and if he shows you a lovely new tennis racket, he will then tell you that he got £50 off the price."

He is often teased, is able to laugh at himself and, according to his friends, those people permitted to see behind Clarke's crusty exterior, he is the complete opposite of his public image. "He is a bit austere," agrees Newth, "but it is a front. He is always meticulously polite, he is very concerned about good behaviour and consideration for others. He would find it impossible to be vindictive, but underneath it he likes a joke, is very jolly and huge fun. He is as soft as butter really."

Some of that austerity or stiffness comes from Clarke's appearance. His long roman nose can somehow give an air of superiority. Perhaps it comes more from his manner. He strives continually for perfection within himself, thinks carefully about everything before he speaks, which means his speech is slower and more contrived. It also means he does not come across well on television.

"He is not the sort of person who would ever need to retract anything he had said," concludes Newth. "He would never put his foot in it or say anything he regretted." Perhaps he would be a better, more readily likeable person if he did make the occasional error or *faux pas*. "Other people would be much more comfortable with him if he did," Newth says. Before that can happen, however, Clarke will need to learn to be easier on himself and that could prove to be one challenge too far.

WEEK ENDING Matthew Bond

If only No 11 could take the Dounreay option

TURN your back for a minute and things have a habit of vanishing — it's a fundamental law of nature. So, too, is the well-known fact that the more desperately you need whatever it is, the more stubbornly it remains lost.

The Atomic Energy Authority knows the subsequent anguish only too well, having had the misfortune to mislay some 11 kilograms of enriched uranium from Dounreay, its reprocessing plant. Depending on which DIY manual you read, that is enough for either a whole atom bomb, or half a one. Expert opinion, it would appear, is critically divided.

Ignoring protests from hapless techicians — "honestly sir, I only turned my back for a couple of nanoseconds" — the AEA fairly turned Dounreay over in its hunt to find the missing fissile material before it became a material fizzing missile. But as a body better versed than most in matters fundamental, it cannot have been surprised when the search came to naught.

As it also knows better than most, matter cannot simply disappear, at least not without an awful lot of people noticing. So after a few half-hearted explanations about where the odd kilo could be hiding — "has anyone tried looking in the North Sea?" — the AEA has finally decided that the uranium had not gone missing at all. Rather it had simply miscounted, or to use the technical jargon "accounting errors and measurement inaccuracies" were responsible. Memo to AEA technicians: Remember to take your thumb off the scales, especially when you need it for counting.

The AEA's humbling admission must have struck a resounding chord with you know who at Number 11, as he prepared for next week's you know what. For the hunt frenziedly going on at the Treasury, makes the AEA's search look about as innervating as British Rail's passenger charter. Norman Lamont, you see, has mislaid his economic recovery.

For weeks — no months — he knew exactly where it was. It was coming soon. But then, fatally, he turned his back for a moment, or was it a few days in Maastricht, and the recovery disappeared. He has been searching for it ever since. Now, with next week's date with economic destiny looming, not an indicator, statistic or result is left unturned in the desperate, last-ditch search for the electoral grail.

But as the AEA could have told him, seek quite so hard



and you definitely will not find. Sadly for Mr Lamont, "the Dounreay option" of arguing that the recovery is not lost but never existed in the first place is not really one he can pursue.

What, of course, you do find in such a situation are the last things on earth you could possibly need.

Every modern chancellor looks forward to a bit of healthy motorist bashing. A few pounds on road tax, the odd penny or two on petrol and another hike in company car tax have become Budget staples. The manufacturers and dealers shout "foul" but then they always do. But then they do not always have the worst car sales figures for 16 years to back them up.

Perhaps the recovery was hiding somewhere in the housing market, primed as it had been so expertly through the temporary suspension of stamp duty? But when Norman looked there, the market was ... still not at all well. Down 4.1 per cent in a year said the Nationwide. Down 4.3 per cent said the Halifax, and down 1.1 per cent in February alone.

A dash to the City was no more encouraging, with the pound scraping along the bottom of the ERM; the well-intentioned Wellcome Foundation inadvertently providing the stock market with a £4.4 billion sell signal and BT announcing plans to shed another 25,000 jobs. Not to mention Richard Branson's decision to throw in the pullover at Virgin Music by selling out to Thorn EMI for £510 million.

Just about the only person who took the deal as a positive signal was his arch rival — Lord King, chairman of British Airways. He was reportedly sanguine about the £400 million Branson now had available for his airline. "Branson," he muttered. "He's too old to rock and roll, too young to fly."

That was little consolation for Mr Lamont who with just three days to go looks as far away from finding his elusive recovery as ever. But all is not lost and his advisers are already working on a plan to ensure that no recovery goes missing again. Assuming the electorate decide that John Smith — busy calculating whether Richard Branson would fall into his top-rate tax band — is too terrifying an alternative, Mr Lamont is to enter into a close partnership with the AEA. He will borrow more to enable it to buy whatever amounts of uranimum it has mislaid, while the AEA will develop an enriched economic recovery that glows in the dark.

Glencast pays off buyout loan

BY KERRY GILL

NINE years ago a Fife foundry established at the beginning of the First World War was about to fold. Yesterday, after the success of a management buyout, aided by the Bank of Scotland, 3i, the Scottish industry department and Fife regional council, the company that rose from the foundry's ashes made the last repayment on a six-figure loan from the council.

The cheque was handed over by Peter Hughes, the managing director, who co-founded Glencast in Leven, near Kirkcaldy, on the site of the defunct foundry in 1983. It now has an annual turnover of £4.4 million, employs 120 in an area of high unemployment and supplied castings for the Dartford bridge. Glencast's success at the high technology end of the foundry business has enabled it to pay back all the loans it secured to mount the buyout.

Mr Hughes said yesterday: "It would all have come to nothing in 1983 if the buyout team had not been able to find the finance when the place closed and 300 people were out of a job. The buyout would not have gone ahead if even one of the financing parties had fallen out. No one did and there are 120 jobs here today that would never have been created." 3i also lent a six-figure sum and holds 24.6 per cent.

Glencast developed techniques that have improved the accuracy and quality of foundry products, and was one of the first companies worldwide to develop the Replicast ceramic shell process, which allows castings to be produced with an accuracy hitherto impossible. It makes castings of up to 4,000 kilograms for a range of products, including coal-cutting machinery booms, valves and railway rolling stock. Its castings hold the mooring systems of semi-submersible oil production platforms and have been ordered for the new Challenger II tank.

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THE M&G NEW £6,000 PEP

Lights will still burn in HK after 1997

FROM LULU YU
IN HONG KONG

THE Hong Kong and Chinese governments have agreed to renew the franchise of one of the colony's two electricity companies until 2008, setting a precedent for other utilities to have their franchises extended past the 1997 transfer of sovereignty.

China Light and Power and its American partner, the Exxon Chemical International group, which operate power stations in Kowloon and the New Territories, will sign an agreement with the Hong Kong government on Monday for a new scheme of arrangement that lasts from 1993 to 2008.

Hong Kong's two electricity suppliers have their profits regulated by a scheme of control that permits about 15 per cent return per year on fixed assets.

The new scheme will be similar to the existing one, which allows a return of 13.5 per cent to 15 per cent on assets, excluding debts. It has been approved by members of the Sino-British joint liaison group.

The new agreement is seen as significant proof that Hong Kong and international investors will be allowed to stay on and make money in the colony even after it returns to Chinese rule.

The continued involvement of Exxon, which started investing in Hong Kong in the Sixties and owns about 60 per cent of China Light's power plants, is a much-needed vote of confidence.

The development also bodes well for Hong Kong Telecom, a subsidiary of Cable and Wireless, which has yet to have its telephone monopoly renewed.

Hong Kong Telecom holds the franchise for domestic phone services until 1995, and that for international services until 2006. There has been concern that the colony's telecommunications business might be deregulated to allow more competition, and that Hong Kong Telecom might not come to a satisfactory agreement with the government.

STOCK MARKET

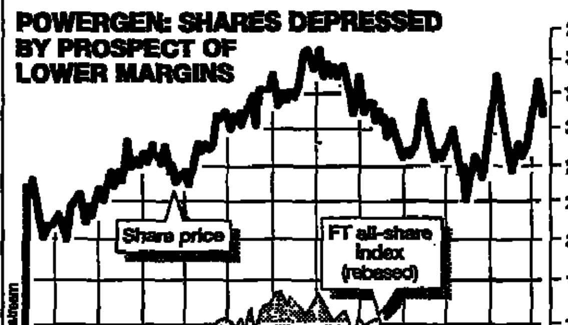
Buying from income funds limits damage

THE income funds were out *in force, picking up shares of* leading companies that can still afford their dividend payments. *Had their support not* been forthcoming, it can be assumed that the equity market would have ended the two-week trading account sharply lower. As it was, the fall in the FT-SE 100 index of 5.2 to 2,533.1 yesterday was something of an achievement. The index ended the two-week period down 26.6.

It has not been the most memorable of accounts, with institutional activity de*pressed by the uncertain pol*itical and economic backdrop and a stream of gloomy *tradings news.*

As traders headed for home last night, they were faced *with the prospect of a sharp* markdown on Monday with the new trading account *weighed down by a long list of* companies going ex-dividend. These were the com*panies the fund managers* were buying yesterday. They included **ICI**, 21p better at *£13.27 (1.3 million shares* traded), **Barclays Bank**, 3p higher at 370p (7 million *shares*), **National Westminster**, 1p cheaper at 318p (5.6 million), **GKN**, 1p softer at *353p (1.4 million)*, **Rolls-Royce** 4p dearer at 150p (6.2 million), **Commercial Union**, *6p firmer at 469p (480,000)*, **Abbey National**, 7p stronger at 293p (3.1 million), and ***Cadbury Schweppes***, 6p higher at 466p (1.4 million shares traded).

There was heavy turnover in gilts following an early markdown amid continued *worries about the govern*ment's borrowing requirements and the pound's renewed weakness. But falls of £¼ at the longer end of the market were eventually wiped out and replaced by gains of £⅛, thanks to a strong American bond market.



In late trading **Trafalgar House** recovered a 2p fall to finish 4p better at 135p as an appeal court found in its favour over the dispute with **Midland & Scottish** about the Emerald oil rig. Midland *& Scottish lost 1p at 27p.*

The City reacted warmly to the news of **Thorn EMI** buy*ing Richard Branson's Virgin* Music Group for £510 million, with the shares surging *21p to 806p. To help finance* the deal, Thorn is raising £516 million by way of a *rights issue of convertible un*secured loan stock at 650p. The deal will make Thorn EMI one of the world's three biggest music companies, along with PolyGram and Time Warner. Analysts think the deal will be good for both companies.

The power generators remained a dull market with **National Power** easing 2p to 221p and **PowerGen** falling 3p to 233p. The shares were hit earlier this week by a bearish review of the sector by *BZW which took a close look* at longer term prospects for the two companies. BZW is *forecasting lower profitability* and is worried about dividend growth once their existing contracts with the electricity distributors runs out after 1993. BZW also *believes that the shares are* overvalued by one-third relative to the rest of the market.

Redland *has stepped up the* pressure in the battle for control of Steetley, the rival building products group, by increasing its offer. It has raised the terms to 389p, valuing Steetley now at £622 million. There is a cash alternative of 365p a share.

The new terms from Redland come just days after the group reached agreement with the Department of Trade and Industry to dispose of certain parts of the Steetley business if the bid succeeds. **Steetley** was barely *moved by the new terms*, finishing 3p firmer at 380p, while Redland ended 7p low*er at 447p.*

British Telecom eased 2p to 334p as brokers continued contemplating the consequences for the group of its plan to shed as many as 25,000 jobs within the next year. The scale of the job losses surprised the City. The *group shed* an initial 18,000 jobs in 1991.

Lep, the security and freight forwarding group, jumped 4½p to 14½p after agreeing refinancing terms with the banks. It is swapping £180 million of debt for equity, extending existing banking facilities for three years and deferring certain interest payments. The group has called in David James, the company doctor, as chief executive.

BP continued to lose ground, finishing 3p lower at 262p after a presentation in New York arranged by Bear Stearns. The Americans have been big buyers despite recent disappointing figures.

MICHAEL CLARK

Cable & Wireless still look cheap, according to Credit Lyonnais Laing, the stockbroker. Investors have the opportu*nity to participate in one of the few real growth sectors in the* market. The broker forecasts 15 per cent per annum average earnings growth over the next five years. The shares slipped *1p to 601p.*

RECENT ISSUES

Amicable Smaller Units (500)	487	-8
Capital Industries 1p	61	...
Fleming Inc & Cap Tst Inc (70)	63	...
Fleming Inc & Cap Units (100)	95	+1
-do- *Zero Div Pf (30)*	32	...
Fleming Japanese Warrants	36	...
Latin Amer Inc & Ap (£10¾)	£12½	...
Lloyds Smlr Cos Pckg Uts (100)	97	...
Lloyds Smller Co's Div 1p (38)	37	...
Lloyds Smlr Co's Cap 1p (62)	60	...
Multitrust Warrants	11	...
River & Merc Tst Inc 12½p	103	...
-do- Stppd Pf 12½p	123¼	...
Rosebys (115)	127	...
Usher-Walker (RFD 1/1/92)	160	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

BTP 10p N/P (205)	21	...
British Vita N/P (212)	27½	-3½
ECC Group N/P (415)	72	...
Maddox 5p N/P (8)	3¼	...
Porvair 2p N/P (115)	16	...
Wembley 5p N/P (30)	2½	...
West Trust N/P (4)	¼	...

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Abbey National	293p (+7p)
Bowater	785p (+8p)
Flogas	250p (+15p)
Isotron	240p (+15p)
Macarthy	335p (+7p)
J Halstead	396p (+20p)
Lloyds Chemists	343p (+8p)
Pifco	328p (+15p)
THORN EMI	806p (+21p)
Kwik Save	572p (+8p)
Burnfield	182p (+19p)
Sidlaw	268p (+8p)
Transfer Tech	412p (+7p)
TI	627p (+7p)
Wassall	226p (+9p)
Sedgwick	228p (+7p)
FALLS:	
Whitbread 'A'	430p (-8p)
British Land	214p (-9p)
Derwent Hldgs	390p (-23p)
Tiphook	381p (-9p)

Closing Prices..Page 29

US jobless figures worst for six years

BY COLIN NARBROUGH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN unemployment rose to 7.3 per cent in February, the highest for six-and-a-half years, according to the latest official figures. In Janu*ary, the unemployment rate* was 7.1 per cent.

But Wall Street analysts, who focus on separate non-farm payroll data rather than the headline count of the jobless, saw yesterday's figures providing a fresh reason for the Federal Reserve Board to hold back on further interest rate cuts.

Non-farm payrolls showed an increase of 164,000 in February, the strongest since May 1990, after a 149,000 drop in January. Although the underlying picture was weaker last month, the payroll data gave more support to the view that the American economy is staging a modest recovery. Rising weekly hours were seen as another pointer to increases in employment.

The labour department said 9.2 million Americans were out of a job last month, or 2.8 million more than at the start of the recession in summer 1990. The jobless rate increased across all age groups last month and particularly affected parts of the eastern seaboard and California.

The strongest increase in the payroll figures was a 133,000 jump in retail jobs, but there was inadequate adjustment for seasonal quirks in the statistics. Manufacturing jobs increased 12,000, although the figure was boosted by a return to work by car workers after temporary layoffs.

Services jobs rose 47,000. Because substantial improvement in the labour market lags behind economic upturn, analysts expect no turnround in overall unemployment until the second half of this year.

□ In Tokyo, the Bank of Japan's latest quarterly *Tankan* survey showed a big drop in business confidence and predicted economic weakness in the months ahead, adding to the pressure for a cut in the official discount rate.

WALL STREET

Blue chips open higher

New York — Blue chips *opened higher after a bond* market recovery and a big jump in February non-farm payrolls encouraged investors to buy. The broad market *was mixed* with the Dow Jones industrial average up 3.5 points to 3,245, after 3,252.

□ **Sydney** — Bargain-hunting towards the close lifted the market off earlier lows. The All Ordinaries index closed 3.6 points down at 1,604.7. *(Reuter)*

	Mar 6 midday	Mar 5 close
AMP Inc	62¾	61½
AMR Corp	78¾	78¾
Abbott Labs	62¼	61¼
Aetna Life	43⅞	43½
Ahmanson (HF)	17⅞	17¼
Air Prod & Chem	86⅞	86¼
Albertson's	43⅞	42¾
Alcan Aluminm	20⅞	21
Alco Standard	39⅞	37⅞
Allied Signal	49¾	49¼
Alum Co of Am	71¼	70⅛
Amax	20⅞	21
Amerada Hess	40⅞	40½
Amer Brands	43⅞	43¼
Amer Cyanamid	63¼	63½
Amer El Power	30⅞	30⅞
Amer Express	21⅝	21⅝
Amer Genl Corp	43¼	42½
Amer Home Pr	77½	76⅛
Amer Intl	87¼	85⅝
Amer Stores	35⅞	35⅝
Amer T & T	37⅛	37½
Ameritech	58¾	58½
Amoco	44¼	43⅝
Anheuser-Busch	56¼	55
Apple Computer	64½	63½
Archer Daniels	27⅞	28
Arkla	9¾	9½
Armco	6¾	6¼
Armstrng Wrld	32⅞	32¼
Asarco	27⅞	27⅞
Ashland Oil	31¼	31
Atl Richfield	102⅞	102¼
Auto Data Pro	43¼	42⅞
Avery Dennison	26¼	26½
Avon Products	46¾	46¼
Baker Hughes	19⅝	19
Baltim Gas & El	31⅛	31¼
Banc One	48⅝	48¼
BankAmerica	44⅝	44
Bank of NY	40	39¼
Bankers Tr NY	59⅛	58½
Barnett Bks Fl	34⅞	34⅛
Bausch & Lomb	50⅛	50⅝
Baxter Intl	35⅝	35¼
Becton Dickson	68⅞	68¼
Bell Atlantic	42½	42¼
BellSouth	45¼	45
Black & Decker	25⅛	24⅞
Block (H&R)	32¼	32⅞
Boeing	47⅞	46⅝
Boise Cascade	23¼	23¼
Borden Inc	32⅝	32½
Bristol Myrs Sq	78⅞	78⅞
Browning Ferris	23¼	23¼
Burlington Nthn	40⅛	39¾
CBS	172⅜	172½
CNA Financial	80⅝	79⅞
CPC Intl	85¼	85¼
CSX	59	57⅞
Campbell Soup	36½	36⅝
Can Pacific	15⅛	14⅝
Cpd Cities ABC	436	438
Cpd Holdings	57½	57⅞
Carolina Pwr	52	52
Caterpiller	50⅝	49⅝
Central & SW	51⅛	51
Champion Intl	26⅛	26¼
Chase Manhat	22⅞	22⅞
Chemical Bk	32¼	31⅛
Chevron Corp	61⅞	61¼
Chrysler	17	16¾
Chubb Corp	65⅞	65⅞
Cigna Corp	56½	56¾
Citicorp	16¾	16½
Clorox	48	47⅛
Coastal Corp	23	23⅜
Coca Cola	79⅞	80⅝
Colgate Palm	45⅞	46⅛
Columbia Gas	18	18¾
Commonw Ed	35⅝	35⅝
Compaq Comp	29⅞	29¼
Comp Ass Int	15⅝	15⅝
Conagra	27⅞	27¼
Cons Edison	25⅝	25⅝
Cons Nat Gas	34⅝	35
Cons Rail	82⅞	82⅞
Cooper Inds	57⅞	57¼
Corning Inc	33¾	33¼
Crown Cork	91	90½
Dana Corp	36¾	36¼
Dayton Hudson	66⅞	65¾
Deere	51¼	51⅛
Delta Air Lines	71⅝	71
Deluxe Corp	41¼	40½
Detroit Edison	31⅝	31⅝
Digital Equip	59⅞	57⅞
Dillard Dept St	127½	127½
Disney (Walt)	155¼	155⅞
Dominion Res	34⅝	34⅝
Donnley (RR)	50⅞	50⅝
Dover Corp	39⅝	40
Dow Chemicals	57	56¾
Dow Jones	32	32⅞
Dresser	20⅝	20⅞
Duke Power	32⅞	31⅞
Dun & Bradstreet	55¾	55½
Du Pont	44⅝	44⅝
Eastman Kodak	44¼	43⅞
Eaton Corp	71¼	71½

	Mar 6 midday	Mar 5 close
Emerson Elec	53	53¾
Engelhard Corp	36⅛	36½
Exxon Corp	33½	33
Enserch Corp	27¾	27¾
Ethyl Corp	24¼	24⅝
Exxon	55½	55⅝
FMC Corp	48¾	47⅞
FPL Group	33	33¼
Federal Express	55½	54¾
Fed Nat Mtge	62	61⅝
First Chicago	29	28⅛
First Interstate	37¼	37⅝
First Union Rlty	7¾	7⅞
FleetNorstar	28⅝	27½
Fluor Corp	42⅞	42¼
Ford Motor	36⅝	36⅞
GTE Corp	30⅞	30¼
Gannett	47⅝	47⅞
Gap Inc Del	46⅝	45⅞
Gen Cinema	20⅞	21⅝
Gen Dynamics	60⅞	60¾
Gen Electric	77⅝	77¾
Gen Mills	65⅞	66
Gen Motors	37⅞	37
Gen Reinsurance	95⅝	94¼
Gen Signal	56¾	56⅝
Genuine Parts	48⅝	48¼
Georgia Pac	65⅝	65¼
Gillette	49½	48⅞
Goodrich (BF)	47¾	48⅛
Goodyear Tire	62⅞	62⅛
Grace (W&R)	43¼	43⅞
Grt Atl Pac Tea	31½	31¼
Great Wstn Fin	18½	18½
Halliburton	27⅞	27¼
Heinz (HJ)	37½	37½
Hercules	49⅞	50
Hershey Foods	41½	41½
Hewlett Packard	76¼	76
Hilton Hotels	43½	43¼
Home Depot	63¾	62½
Homestake	15⅝	15½
Honeywell	72⅝	72⅝
Household Intl	54¼	54
Houston Inds	40⅝	40½
Humana	24⅝	24¼
ITT Corp	68½	66
Illinois Tool	62½	62⅝
INCO	31	30¾
Ingersoll Rand	62⅝	62⅝
Inland Steel	22⅝	21⅝
Intel Corp	63¼	63½
IBM	87¾	86½
Intl Flav & Fr	104⅝	104¼
Intl Paper	75¼	74⅞
James River Va	21	20⅞
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	97⅝	97¼
K Mart	50⅝	50⅝
Kellogg	55¾	56⅝
Kerr-McGee	36	36¼
Kimberly-Clark	50¼	50⅝
Knight-Ridder	56⅝	56¾
Lilly (Eli)	72⅝	72⅝
Limited Inc	28¼	27½
LIN Brdcstng	78⅝	76¼
Lincoln Nat	56½	56¼
Litton	97⅞	96⅝
Liz Claiborne	40⅛	40
Lockheed Corp	44⅝	44½
Louisiana Pac	59¾	59
MCI Commun	34⅝	33⅞
Marriott	17¼	17¼
Marsh & McLen	75¼	75¼
Martin Marietta	53⅝	53
Masco Corp	26¾	26¼
May Dept St	61¼	60⅝
Maytag Corp	18⅝	18⅛
McCaw Cellular	32¼	32⅛
McDonalds	40⅝	40
McDonnell D	65	64¼
McGraw Hill	59	59
Mead Corp	36¼	36¼
Medtronic	80½	79¼
Mellon Bk	39⅝	39
Melville Corp	51	50¼
Merck Inc	152⅛	151¼
Merrill Lynch	57¾	57⅛
Minnesota Mine	90⅝	89⅞
Mobil Corp	60¼	59½
Monsanto	68¾	68¾
Morgan (JP)	59⅛	59
Motorola Inc	77	76¼
Natl Medical	15¼	15⅝
Natl Semi	11	10⅝
Natl Service Ind	25¾	25¼
Navistar Int	3¾	3¾
NBD Bancorp	30	30
NY Times A	28¼	29⅝
Newmont Mng	43⅝	43½
Niag Mohawk	18	18
Nike B	73¼	72¼
NL Industries	8⅝	8½
Nordstrom	39½	39
Norfolk Sthn	60	59¼
Nthn State Pwr	40⅝	40⅞
Norwest Corp	36⅝	36¼
Nynex Corp	72¾	72
Occidental Pet	18¾	18⅝
Ohio Edison	19	18⅞
Oracle Systems	19⅝	19½

	Mar 6 midday	Mar 5 close
Oryx Energy Co	20½	21⅝
PNC Financial	50¼	49⅝
PPG Industries	60⅝	60¼
Paccar Inc	57½	56
Pacificorp	21⅝	21¼
Pac Enterprises	18¾	18¼
Pac Gas & Elec	30	29⅝
Pac Telesis	39⅝	39½
Pall Corp	28⅝	27⅝
Panhandle East	14¾	14⅝
Paramnt Comm	47	47¼
Parker Hannifin	33⅝	33½
Penney (JC)	62½	62⅞
Pennzoil	45¼	45¼
Pepsico	32¼	31⅞
Pfizer	72⅞	72⅝
Phelps Dodge	83⅝	83⅝
Philadel Elec	24⅝	24¼
Philip Morris	74¼	74½
Phillips Pet	23¼	23
Pitney Bowes	65⅝	65
Polaroid	29¼	29⅞
Price Co	32⅝	51⅝
Pramerica	41⅛	41½
Procter & Gmbl	100⅝	99⅝
Pub Serv E & G	26⅝	26⅞
Quaker Oats	64	64
Ralston Purina	54¼	53⅞
Raychem Corp	35⅝	36¼
Raytheon	91⅝	90⅝
Reebok Intl	34¼	33¾
Reynolds Metals	58	57
Roadway Srvs	72	72¼
Rockwell Intl	26¼	26
Rohm & Haas	51¼	51
Royal Dutch	76¼	75½
Rubbermaid	30¼	31¼
Safeco Corp	47⅝	46¼
St Paul's Cos	71½	70⅝
Salomon Inc	29⅝	29⅝
Santa Fe S Pac	11⅛	11¼
Sara Lee Corp	52¼	52
Seccorp	41⅛	41
Schering Plough	57⅝	57⅝
Schlumberger	60¼	59⅝
Scott Paper	43⅝	43¼
Seagram	115¼	115⅝
Sears Roebuck	45⅞	45½
Sec Pacific	38½	37⅞
Shell Trans	48⅝	48¼
Sherwin Wlms	28⅝	28¼
Skyline Corp	16¼	16½
Snap-On-Tools	38⅝	38⅝
Southern Co	30⅞	30⅞
Sthwestern Bell	58½	58¼
Stanley Works	46⅛	46¼
Sun Company	27¼	28⅝
Suntrust	38¼	37⅞
Super Valu	25¾	26⅝
Syntex Corp	47⅝	47¾
Sysco Corp	44⅝	44½
TRW Inc	44¼	44⅝
Tandem Comp	13⅛	13
Tandy Corp	30½	30⅝
Telecom Corp	1¾	1¾
Teledyne	25⅝	25⅝
Temple Inland	53½	53⅝
Tenneco	39⅝	39⅝
Texaco	57¼	56⅝
Texas Inst	34½	34⅞
Texas Utilities	37¼	37⅞
Textron	37¼	37½
Time Warner	105½	104⅝
Times-Mirror	36	36
Timken	25⅝	25⅝
Torchmark	58⅞	58⅝
Toys R Us	34½	34⅝
Transamerica	42½	42⅝
Travelers Corp	20	19⅞
Tribune	42⅞	43
Tyco Labs	37⅛	36¼
UAL Corp	154½	152⅝
UST Inc	27⅞	27⅞
USX Marathon	22½	22¼
Unilever NV	*100*	99¼
Union Camp	52⅝	52½
Union Carbide	24⅝	24⅝
Union Pacific	47½	47¼
Unisys Corp	9⅝	9⅝
USAIR Group	17½	17¼
USF&G Corp	9⅝	9⅝
US Life	45⅝	45⅝
US West	33¼	33½
United Tech	52⅝	51⅞
Utd Telecomms	21⅝	21⅝
Unocal Corp	21⅝	21¼
Upjohn	40¼	40
VF Corp	42⅝	42½
Wal-Mart Stores	53⅝	53¼
Warner-Lambert	64⅝	64
Waste Mngmnt	43⅝	42⅝
Wells Fargo	65¼	64⅝
Westinghouse El	20½	20¼
Weyerhaeuser	34	33⅝
Whirlpool	44¼	44½
Whitman	14½	14⅞
Winn Dixie	41¼	40⅝
Woolworth	29	29¼
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	71⅞	72¼
Xerox	79¼	78⅝

UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS. 071 538 8800				
Series Mngd Fd	312.40	330.60	+1.00	...
Series Equity	394.10	417.10	+1.60	...
Series Prop Fd	386.60	409.20	+1.20	...
Series Fixed Int	256.40	271.40	+0.50	...
Series Money Fd	223.50	236.60	+0.30	...
Series Overs Fd	225.80	239.00	+0.80	...
AETNA LIFE INSURANCE 2-12 Pentonville Road, London N1 9XD. 0800 010575				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	15.95	16.79	+0.02	...
Bear	15.56	16.38	-0.15	...
Owl	15.17	15.97	-0.14	...
Bull	14.01	14.75	-0.11	...
Stag	14.65	15.43	...	...
Gilt Edged	15.31	15.31	-0.15	...
Deposit	*14.16*	*14.16*	*+0.01*	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	20.62	21.71	+0.03	...
Bear	19.95	21.01	-0.17	...
Owl	19.41	20.44	-0.18	...
Bull	17.03	17.93	-0.15	...
Stag	17.20	18.11	+0.01	...
Gilt Edged	18.23	18.23	-0.16	...
Deposit	17.41	17.41	+0.02	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	429.68	429.69	-1.11	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	256.75	270.27	+0.08	...
N Amer Equity	234.23	246.56	-1.19	...
Far East Equity	292.65	308.06	-1.38	...
Fixed	237.98	250.51	-2.37	...
Cash Deposit	180.97	190.50	+0.24	...
Property	82.82	87.18	-1.69	...
Special Opp	283.40	298.32	+1.56	...
Managed	226.62	238.55	-0.71	...
Index-Linked Fd	160.27	168.71	-0.10	...
ABBEY LIFE Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL. 0202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	264.00	277.90	...	...
-do- Acc	449.10	472.80	...	...
Equity Fd Inc	135.10	142.30	-0.10	...
-do- Acc	165.70	174.50	-0.10	...
Selective Fd	373.60	393.30	-0.90	...
Money Fd	329.00	346.40	+0.40	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	*355.30*	*374.00*	...	...
Equity Ser 4	166.80	175.60	-0.10	...
Man Ser 4	487.10	512.80	-2.00	...
Conv Ser 4	290.40	305.70	+0.40	...
Money Ser 4	290.10	305.40	+0.40	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	279.80	294.60	-3.90	...
American Ser 4	375.60	395.40	-0.20	...
High Inc Ser 4	485.70	511.30	-0.70	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	161.90	170.50	-0.70	...
Japan Ser 4	262.40	276.30	-5.70	...
ALBANY LIFE 3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ. 0707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1211.7	1275.4	-1.00	...
European Fd Acc	272.60	287.00	+2.40	...
Fixed Int Acc	417.80	439.70	-4.00	...
Gtd Money Acc	298.70	314.40	+0.60	...
Intl Managed Acc	423.40	445.60	-2.00	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	256.10	269.50	+0.20	...
Japan Fund	225.30	237.10	-6.20	...
N American Acc	244.50	257.30	+1.80	...
Prop Fd Acc	349.80	368.20	+1.00	...
Multiple Inv Acc	796.80	838.60	-1.00	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE Swindon SN1 1EL. 0793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	331.10	348.60	+0.40	...
Equity Acc	1040.5	1095.3	-9.50	...
Property Acc	479.10	504.40	-11.60	...
Far East Acc	198.50	209.00	-2.80	...
Managed Capital	423.50	445.80	-6.00	...
-do- Acc	812.20	855.00	-9.50	...
Overseas Acc	721.00	759.00	-4.40	...
Gilt Edged Acc	381.10	401.20	-5.50	...
Amer Equity Acc	575.20	605.50	-2.40	...
Amer Man Acc	255.00	268.50	-2.00	...
Amer Prop Acc	126.50	133.20	-0.30	...
BARCLAYS LIFE 252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB. 081 534 5544				
Equity Acc	634.80	668.30	-0.20	...
-do- Initial	461.80	486.20	-0.10	...
Gilt Edged Acc	300.60	316.50	-2.90	...
-do- Initial	220.60	232.30	-2.10	...
International Acc	286.90	302.10	-0.30	...
-do- Initial	209.20	220.30	-0.20	...
Managed Acc	400.60	421.70	-0.40	...
-do- Initial	292.60	308.00	-0.30	...
Money Acc	258.60	272.30	+0.50	...
Property Acc	282.50	297.40	-0.20	...
-do- Initial	204.70	215.50	...	...
America Acc	202.40	213.10	+2.00	...
Australia Acc	157.70	166.10	+3.90	...
Financial Acc	202.40	213.10	+0.20	...
500 Accum	320.50	337.40	+0.10	...
Japan Genl Acc	264.80	278.80	-7.00	...
Income Acc	367.90	387.30	+0.60	...
Leisure Acc	180.60	190.20	-1.50	...
Special Sits Acc	155.30	163.50	-0.30	...
Univ Tech Acc	104.50	110.10	-0.20	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF. 0634 834000				
The Managed Fd	614.63	614.63	-2.95	...
Income Fund	569.00	598.95	-1.82	...
Extra Income	509.43	536.25	-8.45	...
Worldwide Gth	370.96	390.49	+1.13	...
Balanced Fund	507.14	533.84	-2.62	...
Smllr Cos Recov	528.36	556.17	-0.26	...
N Amer & Genl	316.90	333.58	+3.47	...
Pacific Basin	280.65	295.43	+1.32	...
German Growth	179.15	188.58	+1.82	...
Japan Growth	123.47	129.97	-3.60	...
The UK Gth Fd	171.80	180.85	-0.12	...
Contl Euro Gth	88.65	93.32	+0.61	...
Property Fund	337.14	354.89	+0.23	...
Fixed Interest	253.47	266.82	-3.30	...
Cash Fund	252.37	265.87	+0.35	...
Managed Inv	381.64	401.73	-1.70	...
Nth Amer Recov	208.58	219.56	+6.30	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Gth	320.91	337.80	+1.84	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE PO Box 37, Greenock, Renfrewshire. 0475 868000				
Measured Perf	116.60	123.40	+0.30	...
Performance Plus	110.50	116.90	+0.20	...
With Profit Perf	142.90	151.20	+0.30	...
UK Opportunity	135.60	143.50	+0.20	...
Euro Opportunity	136.60	144.60	...	...
North Amer Opp	107.70	114.00	+1.30	...
Far East Opp	116.20	123.00	-0.30	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	165.60	174.30	+1.30	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	152.20	161.10	...	...
Fixed Int	145.10	153.50	+0.20	...
Cash	140.00	148.20	+0.20	...
Managed Pens	449.60	458.80	...	...
Overseas	*125.30*	*132.60*	*+0.60*	...
CANADA LIFE 2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA. 0707 51122				
Equity Growth	£197.10	...	-9.20	...
Managed	243.70	256.60	-0.20	...
Property	185.00	194.80	+0.10	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	187.80	197.80	-3.90	...
Index-Linked	153.00	161.10	-0.50	...
Equity	267.10	281.20	+0.50	...
Cash	196.30	206.70	+0.10	...
CLife Euro Mgd	256.30	269.80	+1.90	...
CLife Intl Fd	259.90	273.70	+1.20	...
CANNON ASSURANCE 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB. 081 902 8876				
Capital Gth Acc	94.60	100.10	-0.10	...
Equity Units	£97.40	...	-0.44	...
Property Units	£26.44	...	+0.19	...
Bal Bd Exec Unit	£50.39	£53.32	+0.08	...
2nd Equity Acc	495.10	523.90	-1.00	...
Acc/Acc	458.90	485.60	+0.50	...
2nd Property Acc	242.20	256.30	+1.80	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	144.00	152.40	+0.90	...
2nd Mangd Acc	353.30	373.90	+0.70	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	169.10	178.90	+0.40	...
2nd Deposit Acc	250.80	265.40	+0.20	...
2nd Gilt Acc	243.30	257.50	-1.00	...
2nd Amer Acc	490.90	519.50	+1.00	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	211.50	223.80	+3.50	...
2nd Index Acc	152.80	161.70	+0.40	...
2nd Far East Acc	302.70	320.30	-1.00	...
2nd Global Acc	129.00	136.50	-0.40	...
2nd Euro Acc	*114.70*	*121.40*	*+1.40*	...
2nd Japan Acc	160.00	169.30	-0.40	...
2nd Heritage Acc	70.20	74.30	-2.40	...
2nd Intl Curr Bd	119.60	126.60	+1.30	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 0908 606101				
Property Fund	199.00	209.50	...	...
Managed Fund	449.80	473.50	-3.00	...
Equity Fund	260.80	274.60	-2.30	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0272 290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	216.60	228.10	-0.30	...
Ruby	116.00	122.20	+0.60	...
Emerald	119.00	125.30	-0.60	...
Equity	252.70	266.10	-1.50	...
Property	186.10	195.90	+0.10	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	166.90	175.70	-2.60	...
Indexed Secs	133.40	140.50	-0.50	...
Cash	166.30	175.10	+0.20	...
Nth American	172.00	181.10	+1.00	...
Far East	192.50	202.70	+0.40	...
International	166.40	175.20	+0.50	...
Special Sits	209.90	221.00	-0.40	...
Intl Income	212.10	223.30	-0.40	...
American Inc	145.20	152.90	+1.60	...
European	231.10	243.30	+2.10	...
Japanese	104.50	110.10	-0.60	...
SE Asia	201.50	212.20	+2.60	...
With Profits Reg	132.80	139.80	+0.20	...
-do- Spec	132.80	139.80	+0.20	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	224.70	236.60	...	...
Equity	270.50	284.80	-0.60	...
Property	164.80	173.50	...	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	186.80	196.70	-3.50	...
Index Linked	144.60	152.30	-0.10	...
Cash	211.90	223.10	+0.40	...
Nth American	199.90	210.50	+0.90	...
Far East Acc	203.90	214.70	-1.10	...
International Acc	200.90	211.50	-0.10	...
Special Sits	306.90	323.10	+0.90	...
European Flex	291.80	307.20	+2.60	...
COLONIAL MUTUAL 24 Ludgate Hill, London EC4P 4BD. 071 248 9861				
(Unit)-Key	£178.49	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker	£240.85	...	...	...
-do- Cash	183.98	193.66	+0.24	...
-do- Equity	395.00	415.79	+1.73	...
-do- Fxd Int	276.77	291.34	+1.22	...
-do- Managed	289.35	304.58	+1.25	...
-do- Property	223.17	234.92	-2.05	...
(Pens) Cash Cap	195.38	205.67	+0.49	...
-do- Cash Inv	259.56	273.23	+1.01	...
-do- Equity Cap	1115.4	1174.1	+14.69	...
-do- Equity Inv	1481.8	1559.8	+21.59	...
-do- Fixed Cap	313.12	329.61	+1.34	...
-do- Fixed Inv	415.98	437.89	+2.36	...
-do- Index Cap	177.08	186.41	+1.81	...
-do- Index Inv	235.25	247.65	+2.74	...
Mngd Cap	452.87	476.72	+5.05	...
Mngd Inv	601.65	633.33	+7.55	...
COMMERCIAL UNION St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3. 071 283 7500				
Var Ann (5)	£490.94	...	+0.59	...
Var Ann Acc (5)	£75.81	...	-0.03	...
Prime Managed	287.00	302.20	-1.40	...
Prime UK Equity	345.30	363.50	-1.70	...
Prime Int Equity	*204.00*	*214.80*	*-0.60*	...
Prime Property	178.70	188.20	+0.20	...
Prime Fxd Int	189.80	199.80	-2.80	...
Prime Index-Link	137.20	144.50	-1.00	...
Prime Cash	182.80	192.50	+0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CONFEDERATION LIFE Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN. 0438 744840				
Managed Fund	860.70	906.00	...	...
Equity Fund	1192.6	1255.3	...	...
CROWN FINANCIAL Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW. 0483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	444.80	468.20	-3.30	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	301.70	317.50	-6.10	...
Life Equity Acc	591.20	622.30	-3.90	...
Life Money Acc	268.10	282.20	+0.30	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	543.20	571.70	-2.10	...
Life Intl Acc	388.00	408.40	-1.60	...
Life High Inc Acc	549.50	578.40	-1.80	...
Life Property Acc	229.20	241.20	+0.40	...
Crown Bdi Inv A	944.30	1051.0	...	...
Brewin Equity	557.00	586.30	+0.40	...
DBS Managed	236.50	248.90	+0.60	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 0242 221311				
Secure Fund	155.80	164.00	+0.20	...
Blue Chip Fund	190.30	200.40	-1.20	...
-do- Series 2	*120.80*	*127.30*	*-0.80*	...
Adventurous Fd	164.50	173.20	-1.40	...
-do- Series 2	121.60	128.10	-1.00	...
Performance Fd	184.60	194.40	-0.80	...
-do- Series 2	117.70	123.90	-0.40	...
UK Pref Fxd Int	*118.20*	*124.50*	*-0.90*	...
UK Equity Fund	119.10	125.40	-0.30	...
Property Fund	102.60	108.10	+0.10	...
Envmmnt Opps	121.90	128.40	+0.20	...
Euro Fund	113.60	119.60	+0.30	...
North Amer Fd	141.50	149.00	+1.00	...
Oriental Ops	126.00	132.70	+0.50	...
Japanese Fund	92.50	97.40	-1.80	...
Bd & West Life	106.50	112.20	+0.20	...
Bd & West Pen	112.20	118.20	+0.20	...
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND 60 St Mary Axe, London EC3 071 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	225.70	233.90	-0.30	3.91
EQUITY & LAW Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks. 0494 463463				
Reserve Ser 5	122.30	128.70	-0.20	...
Balcd Ser 5	534.10	562.20	-1.70	...
Opportunity Ser 5	*114.60*	*120.60*	*-0.20*	...
UK Equities Ser 5	725.10	763.20	-4.00	...
Higher Inc Ser 5	707.40	744.60	-0.10	...
North Amer Ser 5	368.20	387.50	+3.40	...
Far East Ser 5	362.90	382.00	-3.20	...
Europe Ser 5	*287.60*	*302.70*	*+0.90*	...
Intnl Ser 5	420.90	443.00	+0.80	...
Property Ser 5	464.00	488.40	...	...
Fixed Int Ser 5	330.30	347.60	-0.80	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec S5	147.00	154.70	-0.20	...
Gteed Dep Ser 5	261.90	275.60	+0.40	...
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH. 0722 413366				
Managed (Mixd)	224.80	236.70	-1.00	...
UK Equity	297.40	313.10	-1.70	...
Stewardship	257.20	270.80	-0.90	...
Overseas Equity	197.10	207.50	-0.20	...
North American	117.80	124.00	+1.60	...
Pacific Basin	97.50	102.70	-0.50	...
European	*150.10*	*158.00*	*+0.10*	...
Property	192.90	203.10	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	170.60	179.60	-1.90	...
Index Linked	129.20	136.00	-0.70	...
Cash	176.30	185.60	+0.30	...
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD 8th Floor, 8 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YJ 071 283 2575				
GT Plan Far East	244.00	256.90	-1.30	...
GT Plan Wwide	305.60	321.70	-1.10	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT 2 Rougier Street, York YO1 1HR. 0904 628982				
Managed	154.10	162.10	-0.40	...
Unitised Profs	109.10	114.70	+0.20	...
UK Equity	209.40	220.30	-2.80	...
Fixed Int	159.60	167.90	-0.90	...
Index-Linked	132.40	139.30	-0.70	...
Cash Deposit	156.70	164.80	+0.20	...
Property	159.60	167.90	+0.30	...
International	141.80	149.20	-0.90	...
American	123.20	129.60	+0.20	...
Japan	189.80	199.70	-3.50	...
Japan Smllr Cos	191.50	201.50	-5.00	...
European	146.20	153.80	+0.40	...
Pacific Fund	155.80	163.90	+1.60	...
Conv Life	118.50	124.60	+1.00	...
GENERAL PORTFOLIO LIFE Gen Portfolio House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 0279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	561.00	561.00	+1.20	...
-do- Inv A	560.90	590.60	+1.30	...
UK Equity	*326.90*	*344.20*	*+1.50*	...
Gilt Plus	166.10	175.00	-1.50	...
Managed	241.80	254.60	+0.60	...
Inter Man	214.80	226.20	+0.70	...
GRESHAM UNIT 2-6 Prince of Wales Road, Bournemouth. 0202 752000				
Managed Bond	557.60	587.60	-3.60	...
Money Fund	*282.50*	*297.30*	*+0.40*	...
Equity Fund	504.30	531.40	+3.80	...
Fixed Interest	224.80	236.90	...	...
Property Fund	320.10	337.30	...	...
Gresham Framlington				
American & Gnrl	*442.80*	*466.70*	*+4.30*	...
Income	550.10	579.70	-1.40	...
International Gth	485.50	511.60	-2.90	...
Capital Fund	504.00	531.10	+1.40	...
Recovery Fund	430.20	453.30	+4.00	...
Japan & General	*205.00*	*216.00*	*-3.10*	...
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE Royal Exchange London EC3. 071 283 7101				
Am Prop Bds	656.50	683.90	...	...
Managed Initial	353.70	372.20	-3.90	...
-do- Acc	474.10	499.00	-5.00	...
Equity Initial	527.20	554.90	-8.80	...
-do- Acc	706.70	743.90	-11.50	...
Fixed Int Initial	343.50	361.60	-4.40	...
-do- Acc	460.50	484.70	-5.80	...
Intl Initial	350.10	368.50	-1.00	...
-do- Acc	469.30	494.00	-1.10	...
Nth Amer Initial	142.10	149.50	+2.30	...
-do- Acc	173.30	182.40	+2.90	...
Pacific Initial	176.70	185.90	-1.60	...
-do- Acc	213.50	224.70	-1.80	...
Property Initial	158.20	166.50	...	...
-do- Acc	212.00	223.20	...	...
Index-Lnkd Init	133.90	140.90	-0.90	...
-do- Acc	163.30	171.90	-1.00	...
Deposit Initial	185.00	194.80	+0.30	...
-do- Acc	248.00	261.10	+0.40	...
Euro Initial	79.50	83.60	-0.50	...
-do- Acc	89.60	94.30	-0.50	...
HAMBRO GUARDIAN ASSURANCE Kingsgate, 1 King Edward Road, Brentwood, Essex CM14 4HG. 0277 200939				
Managed	124.90	131.40	-0.60	...
-do- Pens	*140.70*	*148.10*	*-0.80*	...
UK Equity	115.40	121.40	-0.50	...
-do- Pens	121.60	127.90	-0.60	...
International	108.90	114.60	-0.20	...
-do- Pens	113.00	118.90	-0.20	...
Deposit	125.80	132.40	+0.10	...
-do- Pens	142.80	150.30	+0.30	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION 3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA. 071 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	303.90	320.80	-2.30	...
North America	296.70	313.20	+7.30	...
Far East Fund	373.70	394.50	+1.90	...
Global Managed	329.90	348.20	...	...
Deposit Fund	202.40	213.10	+0.30	...
Prime Residential	134.30	141.40	...	...
European Fund	193.20	204.00	+3.00	...
Fixed Interest	67.20	71.00	-0.61	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon. 081 686 4355				
Security Fund	377.90	399.90	-3.70	...
British Fund	394.20	417.20	-2.80	...
International	*382.40*	*404.70*	*-0.10*	...
Dollar Fund	278.10	294.30	+2.30	...
Capital Fund	355.70	376.50	-1.60	...
Income Fund	482.80	510.90	-0.60	...
Property Series A	382.40	404.70	...	...
Property Units	615.80	646.60	...	...
Financial Fund	353.00	373.60	-0.50	...
Managed Ser A	412.70	436.80	-5.00	...
-do- C	247.00	261.40	-3.30	...
Managed Units	733.50	772.20	-9.00	...
High Yield Fund	443.80	469.70	+1.10	...
Money Series A	253.90	268.70	+0.30	...
Money Units	332.60	350.20	+0.60	...
Equity Fund	462.00	488.90	-2.50	...
Fixed Interest	291.10	308.10	-2.30	...
Indexed Secs	142.60	150.90	-1.30	...
European Fund	*552.90*	*585.10*	...	...
Natural Res	209.40	221.60	+1.90	...
Far East Fund	414.60	438.80	-4.40	...
Smaller Cos	327.20	346.30	+1.40	...
Special Sits	341.80	361.70	-1.00	...
Man Currency	*223.30*	*236.30*	*+1.10*	...
Japanese Tech	191.20	202.40	-5.50	...
US Smaller Cos	174.10	184.30	+2.70	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE *Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 0727 48181*				
Global Managed	426.30	448.70	-2.80	...
Global Property	245.70	258.60	-2.40	...
Global Fixed Int	406.70	428.10	-7.30	...
Global Equity	*480.60*	*505.90*	*-2.90*	...
Global Cash	189.60	199.60	+0.30	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ *0452 371371*				
Gtd Mgd	411.30	433.00	-3.00	...
Property	482.50	507.90	+0.60	...
Managed	316.60	333.30	-2.30	...
American	299.20	314.90	+2.20	...
UK Equity Fd	339.10	357.00	-3.80	...
Japan	143.10	150.60	-3.10	...
Index-Lkd	152.20	160.20	-0.10	...
High Yield	605.10	636.90	+0.30	...
Growth Cap	352.00	370.50	-3.50	...
Money	357.20	376.00	+0.40	...
International	286.20	301.30	-0.10	...
Henderson Active	160.20	168.60	+1.10	...
Perpetual Active	216.90	228.30	+2.50	...
Growth Cap	352.00	370.50	-3.50	...
-do- Acc	487.00	512.60	-2.70	...
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE *2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE.* 0273 824000				
B Soc Lnkd Init	131.50	138.50	+0.10	...
-do- Acc	166.10	174.90	+0.20	...
Brit Opps Int	107.70	113.40	-1.00	...
-do- Acc	123.10	129.60	-0.90	...
Cash Initial	160.80	169.30	-0.30	...
-do- Acc	254.90	268.40	+0.20	...
Equity Initial	520.40	547.80	-2.40	...
-do- Acc	824.70	868.20	-1.30	...
Fixed Initial	295.00	310.60	-4.70	...
-do- Acc	467.50	492.20	-6.20	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	112.80	118.80	-1.10	...
-do- Acc	152.60	160.70	-1.10	...
Intl Initial	262.80	276.70	-0.20	...
-do- Acc	410.00	431.60	+0.70	...
Managed Initial	378.90	398.90	-1.00	...
-do- Acc	600.50	632.20	-0.10	...
Property Initial	190.40	200.50	-0.40	...
-do- Acc	301.80	317.70	+0.20	...
LIFE ASSOCIATION OF SCOTLAND 113 Dundas Street, Edinburgh EH3 5EB. 031 550 5000				
Managed Fund	264.50	278.50	+0.50	...
UK Equity	438.50	461.60	+1.00	...
Property	286.30	301.40	+0.30	...
Money Market	225.00	236.90	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	262.50	276.40	-4.90	...
Japan	274.40	288.90	-2.40	...
North America	126.50	133.20	+0.80	...
International	212.90	224.20	+0.40	...
European	198.60	209.10	+1.10	...
Far East	83.80	88.30	-0.40	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
LONDON LIFE 100 Temple Street, Bristol BS1 6EA. 0272 279179				
Equity	£706.50	...	+1.40	...
Fixed Interest	£319.90	...	-0.10	...
Property	£354.70	...	-2.40	...
Deposit	£258.10	...	+0.40	...
Mixed	£459.40	...	+0.90	...
Indexed Stock	£168.00	...	+0.50	...
International	£209.80	...	+1.30	...
Equity A	£164.60	...	+0.30	...
Fixed Int A	£142.50	...	-0.10	...
Property A	£156.60	...	-1.10	...
Deposit A	£152.30	...	+0.20	...
Mixed A	£151.60	...	+0.30	...
Index Stock A	£132.10	...	+0.40	...
International A	£131.60	...	+0.80	...
Equity P	£553.10	...	+0.80	...
Fixed Int P	£407.10	...	...	...
Property P	£271.80	...	-0.60	...
Deposit P	£291.00	...	+0.40	...
Mixed P	£400.90	...	+0.90	...
Index St				
International P	£230.60	...	+1.70	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER GROUP *Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS.* 0392 282246				
Inv Trust Cap	£447.40	...	-0.20	...
-do- Acc	£663.40	...	+0.20	...
Property Cap	£170.10	...	-0.90	...
-do- Acc	£245.80	...	-1.00	...
Fxd Interest Cap	£177.00	...	-2.70	...
-do- Acc	£255.00	...	-3.70	...
Equity Cap	£275.20	...	-1.40	...
-do- Acc	£400.10	...	-1.80	...
Internatl Cap	£197.40	...	+0.30	...
-do- Acc	£284.80	...	+0.70	...
Gtd Deposit Cap	£169.20	...	+0.10	...
-do- Acc	£241.60	...	+0.20	...
Flexible Cap	£303.10	...	-1.40	...
-do- Acc	£440.10	...	-1.60	...
Moneymaker Fd	£352.50	...	-1.60	...
Capital Growth	£1256.3	...	-4.20	...
M & G Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB. 0245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	318.30	334.30	+2.80	...
Amer Rec Bond	332.20	348.90	+4.70	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	179.90	189.00	+3.40	...
Australasia Bd	150.80	158.50	+3.40	...
Commodity Bond	*187.80*	*197.30*	*+1.80*	...
Deposit Bond Acc	322.70	338.90	+0.50	...
Equity Bond Acc	982.90	1032.2	+0.60	...
European Bd Acc	266.00	279.30	+6.30	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	474.40	498.30	+1.10	...
Far East Bd Acc	*180.70*	*189.80*	*+2.20*	...
Gilt Bond Acc	345.00	362.40	-6.00	...
Gold Bond Acc	86.30	91.00	+3.30	...
High Yield Bond	253.90	266.70	+0.60	7.28
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	170.80	179.40	-0.40	...
International Bd	526.50	552.90	+4.10	...
Japan Bond Acc	211.50	222.20	+0.50	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	178.30	187.30	-1.60	...
Managed Bonds	601.70	631.90	+2.60	...
Prop Bond Acc	303.90	318.80	+6.10	...
Rec Bond Acc	494.60	519.40	-1.90	...
MGM ASSURANCE MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 0903 204631				
UK Equity	184.10	193.80	-1.10	...
UK Equity Acc	236.00	248.50	-1.10	...
Special Sits	81.40	85.70	-1.30	...
Special Sits Acc	104.40	109.90	-1.60	...
North American	155.00	163.20	+0.90	...
N American Acc	198.70	209.20	+1.30	...
Pacific Basin	264.80	278.80	-2.10	...
Pacific Basin Acc	339.40	357.30	-2.50	...
Fixed Interest	249.40	262.60	-2.90	...
Fixed Interest Acc	320.00	336.90	-3.70	...
Property	156.30	164.60	+0.10	...
Property Acc	200.60	211.20	+0.20	...
Deposit	142.60	150.20	+0.20	...
Deposit Acc	183.70	193.40	+0.30	...
Managed	209.10	220.20	-0.60	...
Managed Acc	248.10	261.20	-0.70	...
MANULIFE GROUP St Georges Way, Stevenage, Herts. 0438 356101				
Managed Fund	530.00	557.90	-2.90	...
Property Fund	459.90	484.10	+0.60	...
Equity Fund	646.40	680.40	-4.80	...
Gilt Edged Fd	477.10	502.20	-8.00	...
Deposit Fund	293.60	309.10	+0.40	...
Investment Fd	273.80	287.50	-1.90	...
International	406.10	427.50	+0.10	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS 91 Wimpole Street, London W1M 7DA. Admin: 0272 266366. Prices: 081 789 2945 or 0272 752297				
Property	437.60	460.60	+0.40	...
Equity Bond	256.70	270.20	+0.10	...
Money Mkt Bd	425.40	447.70	-5.90	...
Deposit Fund	332.50	350.00	+0.50	...
Managed Fund	363.40	382.50	+0.20	...
Intl Equity	398.10	419.00	+3.00	...
Intl Managed	381.80	401.80	+1.60	...
North American	157.00	165.20	+2.80	...
Far East	290.80	306.10	+2.00	...
Intl Currency	219.90	231.40	+3.60	...
NM LIFE ASSURANCE Enterprise House, Portsmouth. 0705 827733				
Equity	117.50	123.60	-0.40	...
Fixed Interest	426.30	448.70	-6.40	...
Managed	557.00	586.30	-2.10	...
Deposit	300.40	316.20	+0.40	...
Property	367.60	386.90	+0.10	...
American	329.30	346.80	-4.40	...
Australian	356.40	375.10	+5.00	...
European	419.20	441.20	+1.90	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	221.90	233.50	-2.60	...
Global Managed	112.90	118.80	-0.30	...
Income Acc	587.00	617.80	-0.70	...
-do- Dist	375.80	395.50	-0.60	7.00
International	251.70	264.90	+1.10	...
Japan Smaller	433.70	456.50	-5.10	...
Singapore & Mal	180.70	190.20	-1.40	...
Smaller Cos	308.70	324.90	-0.20	...
Tokyo Fund	523.90	551.40	-5.70	...
UK Equity	479.20	504.40	+2.30	...
CCM Vangd Mg	538.20	566.50	-6.30	...
Equity Pen Cap	751.20	790.70	-2.50	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
NATIONAL PROVIDENT 48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH. 071 623 4200				
Managed	361.70	380.80	-1.30	...
UK Equity	452.90	476.80	-2.70	...
Overseas Equity	350.00	368.50	+0.20	...
American	308.10	324.40	+2.00	...
Far East	347.50	365.80	-2.40	...
Property	193.80	204.00	-0.50	...
Fixed Interest	283.10	298.10	-1.60	...
Indexed Gilt	*163.50*	*172.20*	*-0.70*	...
Deposit	191.90	202.10	+0.30	...
NORWICH UNION ASSET MANAGEMENT LTD *PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP.* 0603 622200				
Managed Fund	1036.7	1091.3	-6.20	...
Eqty Fund	2219.5	2336.4	-18.00	...
Property Fd	485.20	510.80	-0.80	...
Fixed Int Fd	*473.70*	*498.70*	*-6.60*	...
Deposit Fund	303.80	319.80	+0.50	...
Intl Fund	170.80	179.80	+0.10	...
PEARL ASSURANCE *Pearl House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough PE3 6SA.* 0733 63212				
Inv Prop Dist	133.70	140.70	+0.20	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	254.80	268.20	+0.30	...
Inv Equity	863.20	908.70	-0.50	...
Inv Managed	*604.00*	*635.80*	*-1.50*	...
Ret Managed	658.10	692.80	-4.40	...
PROLIFIC LIFE & PENSIONS LTD Stramongate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4UB. 0539 733733				
Bal Gwth Mngd	599.30	637.60	-1.60	...
Cash Fund	299.00	315.10	+0.50	...
Property Fund	211.90	225.50	...	...
Equity Fund	701.70	746.50	+3.40	...
Fxd Interest Fund	347.60	366.30	-1.40	...
International	324.90	345.70	+2.00	...
High Income	495.00	526.60	+2.30	...
Far East	387.80	412.60	+4.00	...
North American	351.00	373.00	+2.20	...
Special Sits	535.00	569.20	-4.50	...
Technology	354.80	377.50	+3.90	...
Extra Income Fd	276.70	294.40	-0.30	...
Gilt Fund	382.60	407.10	-5.30	...
European	110.10	117.20	+0.10	...
Adventurous Mg	*141.30*	*148.80*	*+0.70*	...
Secure Mgd	109.10	116.10	-0.20	...
Equity Inc Dist	95.20	101.30	+0.10	5.27
North American	92.80	98.80	-0.10	5.60
PROVIDENCE CAPITOL 2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA. 0256 766888				
Equity Fund Acc	216.80	228.70	-2.10	...
Fxd Interest Acc	194.30	205.00	-3.90	...
International Acc	182.50	193.40	+0.50	...
Managed Acc	172.00	182.30	-0.80	...
Property Acc	225.00	237.40	-0.50	...
Money Acc	136.10	143.60	+0.10	...
Spec Mkt Acc	169.40	178.70	+4.10	...
Japan Equity Acc	87.50	92.30	-2.40	...
N Amer Acc	117.30	123.80	+1.10	...
Pacific Acc	98.80	104.30	+1.20	...
Technology Acc	144.80	152.80	-1.40	...
Natural Res Acc	56.30	59.40	+0.40	...
European Acc	104.70	110.50	+0.20	...
PROVIDENT MUTUAL William Road, Hitchin, Herts SG4 0LP. 0438 739000				
Managed Ord	361.60	380.60	-1.90	...
Managed Initial	266.50	280.50	-1.70	...
Equity Ord	533.50	561.60	-6.30	...
Equity Init	393.30	414.00	-4.90	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	161.30	169.80	-0.50	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	124.20	130.70	-0.60	...
Overs Equity Ord	285.70	300.70	+0.50	...
Overs Equity Init	210.60	221.70	+0.20	...
Property Ord	220.00	231.60	+3.30	...
Property Init	162.20	170.70	+2.30	...
Fixed Int Ord	219.20	230.70	-2.40	...
Fixed Int Init	161.60	170.10	-1.80	...
Deposit Ord	183.00	192.60	+0.30	...
Deposit Initial	134.90	142.00	+0.10	...
PRUDENTIAL Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH. 071 405 9222				
Managed	259.80	270.70	+1.60	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS 1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP. 071 548 3278				
Managed Fund	555.30	584.60	-2.10	...
Equity Fund	1132.3	1191.9	-4.30	...
Intl Fund	396.50	417.40	-0.70	...
Fixed Interest	453.40	477.30	-6.40	...
Property Fund	365.30	384.60	+1.10	...
Cash Fund	324.60	341.70	+0.60	...
Pacific Basin	195.30	205.60	-3.20	...
N American Fd	160.80	169.30	+2.00	...
Euro Fund	192.40	202.60	+0.50	...
Balanced Fund	113.80	119.80	-0.50	...
Strategic Fund	113.50	119.50	-0.50	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 0733 390000				
Mult Grow (4.5)	£561.80	...	+2.80	...
-do- Acc	378.00	398.00	...	...
Op Prop	379.80	399.80	+2.40	...
Op Equity	771.60	812.30	-11.70	...
Op High Yield	444.10	467.50	-6.30	...
Op Managed	597.40	628.80	-5.80	...
Op Deposit	349.40	367.80	+0.70	10.37
Amer Smaller	140.30	147.70	+2.20	...
Extra Inc	126.00	132.70	-3.80	...
Far East	166.60	175.40	+7.20	...
Gold Gen	31.40	33.10	+0.40	...
Inc Gth	240.20	252.80	-0.10	...
Japan Perf	183.30	193.00	-6.50	...
Japan Smlr	169.70	178.70	-4.60	...
Natl High	228.00	240.00	+3.00	...
Prop Shs	128.20	135.00	-1.90	...
Smaller Cos	183.70	193.40	-13.40	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Managed Gth	196.40	206.80	-0.50	...
Gilt	71.20	75.00	-1.70	...
Amer (35.34)	180.70	190.30	+1.90	...
British	280.10	294.90	+7.60	...
Intl Fixed Int	93.50	98.50	+0.80	...
Global (35.34)	133.20	140.30	+0.80	...
Gold Share	49.90	52.60	+0.40	...
High Income	226.20	238.20	-0.70	...
Income	308.00	324.30	-0.80	...
Japan	279.90	294.70	-2.70	...
UK Smlr Cos	279.70	294.50	-0.40	...
Mngd Growth	343.80	361.90	+2.50	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS. *051 239 3000*				
Royal Shield Fd	723.90	766.00	-5.20	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	291.60	306.90	-1.40	...
Equity Fund	401.20	422.30	-1.60	...
Property Fund	*235.10*	*247.40*	...	...
International	327.50	344.70	+0.60	...
Pacific Basin	179.40	188.80	-1.40	...
United States	169.40	178.30	+4.50	...
Gilt Fund	279.30	293.90	-4.30	...
SAVE & PROSPER 16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 0708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	*580.50*	*614.30*	...	...
Deposit Fund (2)	325.40	344.40	+0.50	...
Gilt Fund	400.40	423.80	-6.50	...
Global Equity Fd	167.90	177.70	-0.70	...
Property Fund (40)	85.40	90.40	...	...
AG Bond Fund	123.20	130.40	*+1.60*	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE 150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow. 041 248 2323				
Equity	431.00	453.70	-0.10	...
Fixed Interest	284.90	299.90	-2.70	...
Index-Linked	154.00	162.10	-1.30	...
International	314.80	331.30	+1.30	...
Property	236.60	249.10	...	...
Cash	204.60	215.40	+0.40	...
Managed	341.30	359.30	+0.30	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE 28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF. 031 556 9101				
Cash	160.07	168.49	+0.19	...
Index-Linked	127.60	134.30	-0.20	...
Fixed Interest	149.10	156.90	-1.50	...
Mixed	192.60	202.70	+0.10	...
UK Equity	186.00	195.80	-0.80	...
International	196.00	206.30	+0.80	...
American	180.60	190.10	+1.90	...
Japan	184.50	194.20	-2.30	...
European	212.80	224.00	+1.60	...
Pacific	229.40	241.50	+1.90	...
Technology	248.50	261.60	+1.20	...
Currency/Currency	175.40	184.60	+1.50	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE. 031 225 2211				
Property	177.90	187.40	+0.20	...
UK Equity	274.10	288.60	-2.10	...
American	185.50	195.40	-0.50	...
Pacific	227.00	239.00	-1.30	...
European	346.60	364.90	+0.50	...
International	221.50	233.30	-0.70	...
Fixed Interest	183.40	193.10	-1.70	...
Index Linked	160.20	168.70	-0.90	...
Deposit	170.50	179.50	+0.20	...
Managed	217.40	228.90	-1.10	...
Worldwide	96.40	101.60	+0.40	...
Pen Worldwide	97.80	103.10	+0.50	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE 109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN. 041 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1323.9	1364.9	...	...
Safety Fund	184.30	194.00	-1.60	...
Growth Fund	179.20	188.70	-1.10	...
Opportunity Fd	177.00	186.40	-1.00	...
Cash Fund	155.00	163.20	+0.20	...
European Fund	260.30	274.00	-2.10	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	154.10	162.30	-2.10	...
Index-Linked Fd	142.00	149.50	-1.30	...
International Fd	216.60	228.00	-0.70	...
North American	190.80	200.90	+0.50	...
Property Fund	119.70	126.10	-0.20	...
UK Equity	192.70	202.90	-1.90	...
UK Smaller	188.20	198.20	-1.70	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT *6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA.* 031 556 9181				
Mixed	200.40	211.10	-0.90	...
Equity	212.40	223.70	-0.30	...
International	203.30	214.10	-0.80	...
Property	202.60	213.30	+0.20	...
Fixed Interest	176.50	185.90	-2.10	...
Index Linked	142.80	150.60	-0.90	...
Cash	168.00	177.00	+0.20	...
SCOTTISH WIDOWS PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU. 031 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	735.70	735.70	+1.90	...
Inv Pol 2	674.80	710.40	+1.80	...
Inv Pol 3	650.50	684.80	+1.80	...
Inv Cash	274.80	289.40	+0.40	...
Mixed Fund	355.80	374.60	-0.80	...
Equity Fund	425.70	448.20	-1.20	...
Property Fund	212.60	223.90	-1.10	...
International Fd	359.70	378.70	+0.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	281.10	296.00	-3.80	...
Indexed Stock Fd	157.40	165.70	-1.20	...
Cash Fund	201.80	212.60	+0.30	...
SKANDIA LIFE Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX. 0703 334411				
Managed Acc	283.20	298.10	-0.60	...
Equity Acc	319.20	335.90	-1.80	...
International Acc	253.20	266.50	+1.50	...
Property	217.40	228.80	+0.20	...
Royal Trust Mg	186.50	196.30	+0.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ. 031 225 2552				
Cash	240.00	252.70	+0.40	...
Equity	760.40	800.50	-5.40	...
European	*124.20*	*130.80*	*+0.30*	...
Far East	112.30	118.30	-0.60	...
Fixed Interest	307.10	323.30	-4.30	...
Index Linked	162.40	171.00	-0.70	...
International	445.90	469.40	+0.20	...
Managed	*529.50*	*557.40*	*-2.90*	...
Nth American	124.40	131.00	+0.70	...
Property	297.10	312.80	...	...
Pensions				
Cash	360.20	379.20	+0.70	...
Equity	1048.4	*1103.6*	*-11.00*	...
European	145.90	153.60	+0.80	...
Far East	85.00	89.50	-0.60	...
Fixed Interest	399.40	420.50	-4.70	...
Index Linked	223.10	234.90	-1.10	...
International	598.30	629.80	+0.20	...
Managed	710.10	747.50	-5.40	...
Nth American	146.20	153.90	+0.50	...
Property	371.80	391.40	+1.10	...
Stock Exchange	159.50	167.90	-1.30	...
SUN ALLIANCE Sun All House, Horsham, Sussex. 0403 64141				
Managed Fund	482.00	507.40	-1.70	...
Equity Fund	663.10	698.00	-2.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	328.90	346.30	-5.50	...
Index-Linked Fd	242.40	255.20	-2.50	...
Property Fund	391.80	412.50	+0.70	...
International Fd	440.30	463.50	-0.80	...
N American Fd	*165.20*	*173.90*	*-0.50*	...
Far East Fund	139.80	147.20	+0.40	...
Deposit Fund	260.70	274.50	+0.50	...
International Bd	£59.04	...	+0.81	...
Worldwide Bond	121.70	128.20	+0.80	...
Worldwide Fixd	74.40	78.40	+0.10	...
Worldwide Tech	88.20	92.90	+0.10	...
European	115.90	122.00	+0.50	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	476.40	501.60	+2.80	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	368.30	391.50	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund	£444.00	...	+0.70	...
-do- Acc	£418.50	...	+0.60	...
Agricultural Fd	£696.90	...	+1.00	...
-do- Acc	£669.60	...	+1.00	...
Abbey Nat Fd	£355.40	...	+0.50	...
Abbey Nat Acc	£379.30	...	+0.50	...
Investment Fd	£254.90	...	-0.90	...
Investment (A)	£245.60	...	-0.80	...
Equity	£958.10	...	-2.80	...
Equity Acc	£922.70	...	-2.60	...
Money Fund	£410.70	...	+0.60	...
-do- Acc	£394.90	...	+0.60	...
Actuarial Fd	£442.80	...	-1.50	...
Gilt-Edged Fd	£306.30	...	-4.80	...
-do- Acc	£306.30	...	-4.80	...
Retire Annuity	£918.30	...	+5.50	...
Immed Annuity	£303.50	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life	£200.70	...	+0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ. Dealing: 0256 841414				
Growth Account	£1066.7	...	+9.90	...
Managed Acc	£647.50	...	+2.10	...
Equity Account	£914.20	...	+4.30	...
Mngd Fund Acc	302.20	318.10	+1.00	...
Equity Fund Acc	405.90	427.30	+2.00	...
Prop Fund Acc	238.10	250.70	+0.20	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	244.40	257.30	+1.60	...
Money Fund Acc	*194.90*	*205.20*	*+0.20*	...
Indx-Lnk Scs Ac	166.60	175.40	+0.40	...
Pens Pens Acct	£1372.8	...	+0.20	...
Pens Mngd Accs	638.40	672.00	+0.10	...
Pens Guarantee	197.50	208.00	+0.40	...
Pens Equity	246.60	259.60	-0.20	...
Pens Property	220.80	232.40	+0.30	...
Pens Fixed Int	214.60	225.90	+0.70	...
Pens Intl	165.00	173.70	-0.10	...
Pens Money	201.40	212.10	+0.40	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	155.20	163.30	+0.40	...
SUN LIFE UNIT St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL. 0272 426911				
Managed Acc	649.40	683.60	-1.10	...
Property Acc	283.10	298.00	-0.80	...
Equity Acc	1050.0	1105.3	-0.80	...
Fixed Int Acc	298.50	314.30	-4.30	...
Index-Linked Acc	159.80	168.30	+0.30	...
Cash Acc	273.60	288.00	+0.40	...
Amer Equity Acc	271.30	285.60	-1.60	...
Japan Acc	218.60	230.20	-3.30	...
Pacific Acc	207.90	218.90	+3.10	...
Far Eastern Acc	498.00	524.30	+9.10	...
International Acc	355.30	374.10	+2.00	...
Distribution Fund	239.30	251.90	-0.60	7.94
European	131.10	138.00	-0.60	...
TSB LIFE LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE. 0264 345678				
Managed Fund	217.70	229.20	-2.40	...
Property Fund	172.50	181.60	-0.20	...
Fixed Interest Fd	179.20	188.70	-1.40	...
Money Fund	177.40	186.80	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	282.70	297.60	-3.20	...
TARGET LIFE The Exchange, 66 High Street, Aylesbury, Bucks. 0296 394000				
American Eagle	140.10	147.50	-1.20	...
Australian	23.70	25.00	-0.20	...
Deposit	*224.60*	*236.50*	+0.30	...
Residential Prop	94.30	99.30	...	...
Financial	207.10	218.10	-3.60	...
Fixed Interest	277.90	292.60	-2.60	...
Gold	58.40	61.50	-0.90	...
Income	285.40	300.50	-6.70	...
International Eqty	310.30	326.70	-4.80	...
Japan	290.10	305.40	-11.80	...
Managed	468.00	9.70	-9.30	...
International Bd	92.90	97.80	+0.60	...
Managed Prop	168.60	177.50	-13.60	...
Preference	197.70	208.20	-6.30	...
Property	255.00	268.40	...	...
UK Cap	188.00	198.60	-5.80	...
World Income	222.60	234.40	-3.20	...
Euro Situations	200.10	210.70	-0.20	...

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WEEKEND MONEY
SATURDAY MARCH 7 1992

Edited by Lindsay Cook

Watchdog who barks and bites



COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR

Three cheers for Julian Farrand, the insurance ombudsman. He seems to be the only person brave enough to take on the life companies. Regulators and the trade department are apparently happy to let them carry on in their own sweet way.

Dr Farrand may be paid by the companies but he is so independent that every policyholder should be proud of him. Insurance companies employing dodgy marketing techniques need to watch out. He has found in favour of a former student and awarded her more than £1,000 to put her in the position she would have been in had she never met a tied agent of Reliance Mutual.

The agent sold the woman a whole-of-life policy that she could ill afford and which was also inappropriate for her circumstances. As readers of Weekend Money know, this is not unheard of for Reliance Mutual agents.

In the summer of 1990, the case of an agent selling similar policies to students in several universities was highlighted. Then, students gained the impression they were applying for a grant when they invited the salesman to call. In fact they were being sold life assurance.

The same week, the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation (Lautro) reported that the life company had been disciplined for the activities of another agent selling similar products by infiltrating halls of residence and hostels. They had acted aggressively and given poor advice, Lautro found. It took Lautro more than six months to publicise the hearing, which had taken place in December 1989.

Not only are the policies sold to students inappropriate for the vast majority of young people struggling to pay essential bills for food and books but they are also a very bad deal if they try to cash them in early. There is no surrender value for the first few years. All the money is lost.

But not for long, after Dr Farrand came on the scene. The former student only contacted him a few weeks ago and an award to cover all the premiums plus 10 per cent interest has been made against the company.

Other policyholders who feel that they have been misled or sold the wrong product should write to the ombudsman if they cannot make any progress with the company concerned. He can be contacted by writing to City Gate One, 135 Park Street, London SE1 9EA.

Of course, he also finds against policyholders, as will be revealed when his annual report is published this month. The majority of cases are usually settled in favour of the companies. Many more are settled without an official award being necessary once the companies get wind of the way things are going. Dr Farrand has learnt fast about most of the fiddles perpetrated by both sides. He will not be readily fooled by false claims by people who have changed their minds about a perfectly good policy that they wholeheartedly entered into.

Meanwhile, the Securities and Investments Board is about to announce soon how much information customers should be given at the point of sale by life salesmen. The more they are told, the less need there will be for Dr Farrand to put matters right later on.

Tax lottery

Charities are almost alone in hoping that the much heralded cut in basic rate tax will not materialise on Tuesday. If the rate is cut by 1p they collectively stand to lose £20 million and if basic rate is reduced by 2p, to the lowest level for more than 50 years, charities will lose £40 million. The reason is because of the way charitable covenants work. People agree to make donations for four years and the charities claim back the basic rate tax already paid by them. In 1990-1 the repayment to charities totalled £474 million. This will be reduced if the basic rate of income tax is cut.

If people feel better off, they might give more to charity, but charities do not want to have to rely on greater generosity. Donations are already down as a result of the recession, and charities are still struggling to cope with the impact of the increase in VAT last year. This cost charities £35 million a year, which cannot be recovered.

Any increase in the limit on payroll giving limit or reduction in the threshold for tax-effective giving through the Gift Aid scheme are unlikely to replace the lost money.

Perhaps a large chunk of the proceeds of a national lottery will be the answer for charities if services are not to be cut. Then everyone could feel good.

Would-be sellers must pin hopes on economic turnround

Poll uncertainty adds to gloom on home front

BY SARA MCCONNELL AND LINDSAY COOK

HOMEOWNERS who are struggling to sell properties that have turned into depreciating assets will have to wait until the second half of this year at the earliest before there is any sustained recovery in the market, and only then if there are signs of a substantial turnround in the economy.

The Halifax and the Nationwide, Britain's two largest building societies, both said this week, in commentaries to their monthly house price indices, that the market was being held back by rising unemployment, election uncertainty and generally poor economic performance.

Lenders are fastening on to any small sign of recovery, including an increase in the number of mortgage applications from people who are doing more than look in estate agents' windows.

But the societies admit that they underestimated the severity of the housing recession and hope for some form of mortgage or housing concession in the Budget.

The Council of Mortgage Lenders has asked for an increase in the mortgage tax relief ceiling from £30,000.

Lenders accept that the best they can hope for realistically is targeted relief to give the mortgage market a kick start rather than a general increase. They recognise that an increase in the allowance for existing borrowers to £50,000 would cost £1.3 billion a year and not necessarily induce any new confidence.

It would be much cheaper to offer a doubling of the limit for first-time buyers for two years or for all new buyers for one year. That would, undoubtedly, stimulate the market and would allow the general allowance to remain at £30,000. It could, however, encourage people to borrow more.

Another way of encouraging new buyers would be to assist tenants of local authorities and housing associations to buy in the open market. There is already a scheme operated by the Housing Corporation that pays tenants £15,000 to £20,000 to help them buy in the private sector. If £400 million were given to fund such a scheme then 20,000 properties would be sold and 2,000 homeless families could be housed.

However, without a boost to the current property market it might be difficult, even with such generous lump sums, to attract 20,000 from low rents to mortgages and possible falling prices.

Newcomers are nervous that prices will continue to tumble. Prices have continued to do so despite six mortgage rate cuts, bargain house prices and the temporary scrapping of stamp duty on properties up to £250,000.

Any optimism by the lenders last year was misplaced. The Council of Mortgage Lenders said in *Housing Finance*, its quarterly journal, that its forecast of a 5 per cent rise in house prices in 1991 "in retrospect ... proved unduly optimistic".

In fact, prices fell by almost this amount over the last year, according to the indices from the Halifax and the Nationwide. The Halifax reported that house prices fell by 1.1 per cent in February and are now 4.3 per cent down on February last year, while corresponding figures from the Nationwide show that prices fell by 1.2 per cent month on month and 4.1 per cent over the year. The figures are based on the numbers of mortgages in place, rather than the firmer indicator of housing completions.

David Gilchrist, general manager of the Halifax, said: "There will be a slow and hesitant recovery and no one will ever buy again with the expectation that prices will go only one way. While unemployment is still rising there is a lack of confidence. What we need is for unemployment to stop rising, not necessarily to fall, but to stop rising."

The volume of mortgage applications is up 40 per cent on a year ago. Last February's housing market had deep snow and a Gulf war to contend with.

However, Mr Gilchrist added: "There is a lot of interest reported by estate agents, but they are cautious about saying this will turn into sales." The Halifax said it expected this to translate into "small rises in house prices by the second half of 1992".

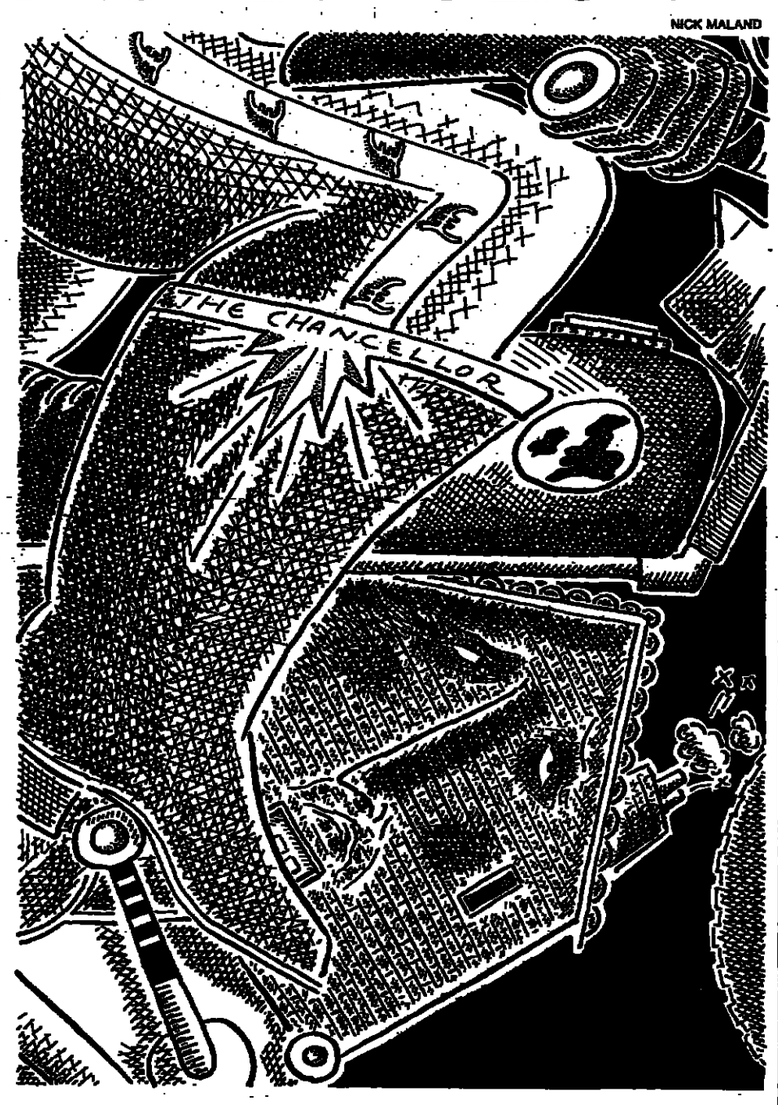
John Hutchinson, the Nationwide's retail operations director, agreed: "We are seeing a lot of activity with people putting their houses on the market and expressing interest in buying, but what is not happening yet is signatures on paper. There may be a longer delay this spring than other springs, and it is totally a matter of confidence."

Donald Kirkham, group chief executive of the Woolwich Building Society is cautiously optimistic after four weeks of improved sales through its estate agencies in the South-East. "I am surprised that average sales have gone up by 30 per cent." But he says that the market needs suspension of stamp duty has had no effect whatsoever. Stamp duty is not something people expect and they don't think about it. It happens after the event, when people get the bill."

Mr Hutchinson at the Nationwide said that anything to help the market was welcome but that borrowers needed permanent help. Many people who want to move are trapped in homes where all they can do is watch prices fall.

The South, which generally had a shorter, sharper housing boom than the North is suffering more. The Halifax said that prices on terrace houses in East Anglia peaked in the fourth quarter of 1988 at £90,426. At the end of 1991, the price was just £67,101. Prices on semi-detached houses in the East Midlands had seen a similar drastic fall from £99,770 to £73,642. Homeowners in York and Humberside had suffered less: the average price of a terrace house has actually gone up from £51,520 in the second quarter of 1991, when house prices generally in the area were at their peak, while the price of a semi has fallen only very slightly from £59,819 to £59,769.

Gary Marsh, head of research at the Halifax, said rapid income growth in the South combined with supply constraints pushed prices up to a peak in 1988. Prices got out of line with income and became "extremely unaffordable" until the bubble burst.



> Mortgage lenders accept that the best they can hope for is targeted relief to give a kick start to the housing market

Banks try to woo first-time buyers with rate deals

FIRST-TIME buyers are widely seen by lenders as the key to the housing recovery, but many potential homeowners are holding back through fear of unemployment or high interest rates.

The market should be favourable for first-time buyers, who could have the pick of the over-plentiful supply of houses on the market, at prices that are lower than they have been for years.

In addition, mortgage repayments are becoming more manageable. Repayments for first-time buyers fell from just over 25 per cent of income to just over 20 per cent in 1991, according to environment department figures. John Hutchinson, retail operations director at the Nationwide Building Society, said mortgage repayments accounted for the same proportion of income as they did in 1983.

Lenders estimate that even tempting 50,000 first-time buyers into the market in 1992 would make a significant difference to the excess of supply and the lack of demand. However, the proportion of borrowers who were first-time buyers fell to less than half in 1991, for the first time for two years, the Council of Mortgage lenders said. In the third quarter of 1991, the latest for which figures are available, only 44.5 per cent of borrowers were first-time buyers, down from a peak of 55 per cent in the first quarter of 1990.

Successive cuts in mortgage rates since their high of 15.4 per cent in 1990 to their present level of 10.99 per cent have not been enough to tempt first-time buyers into the market, a survey this week from the Alliance & Leicester, the third largest building society, suggests.

Of potential homebuyers, 79 per cent name lower mortgage rates as their main reason for staying out of the market. The survey found that 18 per cent of those hoping to buy last year deferred purchases "because of interest rates and general affordability".

John Day, Alliance & Leicester's assistant general manager, said: "The housing market needs a good inflow of first-time buyers. The suspension of stamp duty must have helped them — the impact is not enormous but has helped as have lower interest rates. But the thing that is really needed is the confidence of the house-buying public that their jobs will be safe and their homes secure."

Lenders have been tempting borrowers with discounts of several percentage points off rates which are already about 5 per cent less than they were two years ago. This week the Co-operative Bank is offering a 1.5 per cent discount to first-time buyers for a year under its First Choice scheme. The discount reduces the standard rate from 10.95 per cent to 9.45 per cent. This will be available from Monday.

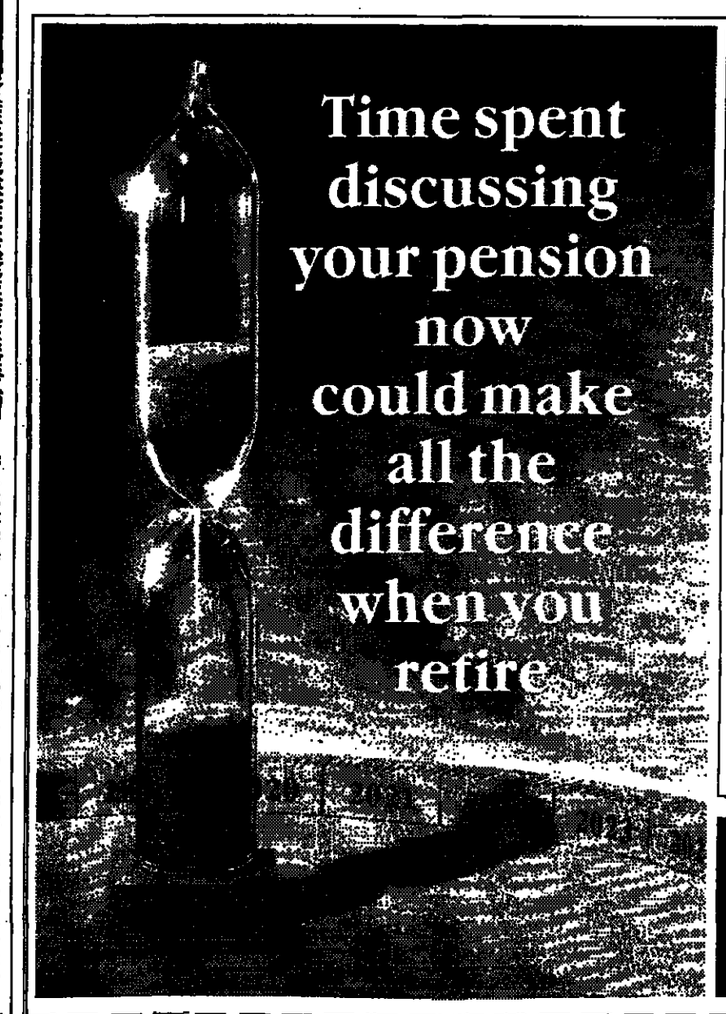
Lloyds Bank is offering a more generous 1.75 per cent discount for a year, which cuts the mortgage rate from 10.99 per cent to 9.24 per cent (an annual percentage rate of 11.5 per cent). This discount would save a borrower £918.75 in the first year of a £60,000 loan, making a monthly saving of £76.57. The monthly saving on a £30,000 loan is £32.82. Lloyds is also offering a 20 per cent discount on premiums for a year to first-time buyers taking the bank's buildings and contents policy.

Phil Nunnerley, Lloyds' assistant general manager, retail banking, said: "Although interest rates have fallen progressively from their peak in 1990, they are still high enough to make life difficult for first-time buyers. This 1.75 per cent discount will give a springboard to their first homes."

Lenders agree that lowering the rates for first-time buyers is vital if they are to stimulate the market generally. However, some fear that they could be tempted to overextend themselves because discounts made mortgages appear cheap. If interest rates subsequently rise, they could find themselves in financial difficulties again when the discount came to an end.

Brian Whitfield, marketing manager at the Household Mortgage Corporation said: "There is a real danger in any scheme providing a discount in the first year. Most of us are not much good at planning for a rainy day and there is the problem of other commitments. When the discounts come off, the rates go up and life becomes more difficult."

SARA MCCONNELL



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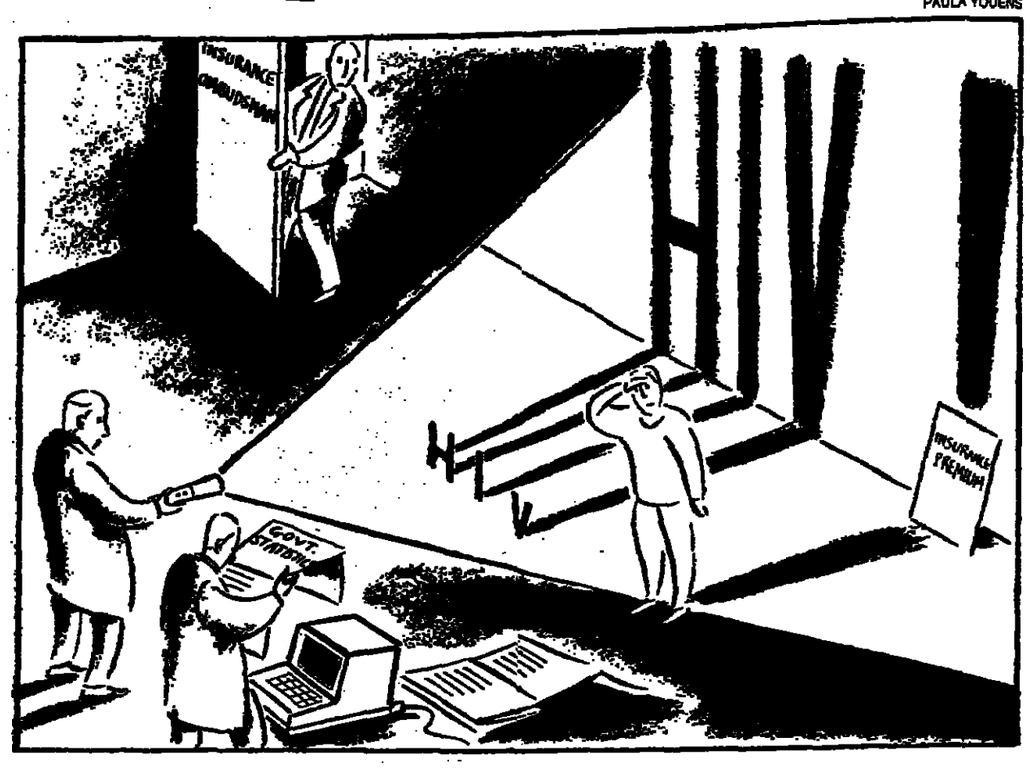
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Life companies remain cautious on policy premiums

Insurers keep a watch on Aids

By Liz Dolan



PAULA YOUENS

INSURANCE companies that increased term assurance rates by up to 300 per cent in the late Eighties because of worries about the spread of Aids are proving less willing to make similar large-scale 'adjustments to rates in the light of new, more optimistic, evidence.

In November 1986, the *World Health Organisation* predicted that as many as 100 million people would carry the Aids virus by 1990. The Royal College of Nursing forecast at the same time that 1 million people, one in 50, would suffer from full blown Aids within six years unless the disease was checked. These projections have proved wide of the mark.

About 5,500 people in Britain have been diagnosed as suffering from Aids since 1982, and the health organisation estimates that between 8 million and 10 million carry the disease, one tenth of its original projected figure. Some commentators say that the spread of Aids could have started to burn itself out as early as 1985.

Logically, that should mean a substantial reduction in term assurance premiums for younger people, who are most at risk from Aids. However, life companies are taking a more cautious view.

David Linnell, group actuary and compliance officer at the Prudential, said: "We are obviously pleased that the spread of Aids has slowed, but there is still a lot of uncertainty about what will happen in the future. A change in people's habits may simply have deferred the problem. We are watching the situation with interest."

The Prudential substantially increased its rates in 1988 and 1989. For a 30-year-old man with a five-year term, this meant a rise of 63 per cent in premiums, although "some less usual combinations of age and term saw increases of up to 75 per cent."

In July 1988, Commercial Union raised the rate for a 30-year-old male non-smoker for a ten-year term by 140 per cent. A spokeswoman said: "This rise was a response to projections being made at the time. Since then, we have carried out a few minor tweaks, but the situation is still very fluid. At the moment, we are seeing an increase in claims from the heterosexual community, for instance.

"Deaths now are still likely to be of people who contracted *the virus prior to the period* when publicity about Aids was at its height." CU has so far paid out £3m for confirmed *Aids deaths.*

Sun Life doubled premiums for term assurance in 1988. David Garrett, manager in charge of life products, said: "Since then, it would be fair to say that assumptions about the spread of Aids have become increasingly less severe.

"For instance, where the average survival rate for a person with full blown Aids used to be two years, it is now six. Over the past 12 to 24 months, the company has recognised this fact and has *been reducing the mortality* element in premium rates." However, although mortality accounts for the largest part *of the cost to policy-holders,* "the actual effect as far as the public is concerned may not be apparent because there may have been increases made for other reasons not related to Aids".

Graham Allan, company actuary, Zurich Life, said: "The increases made in 1988 would still not have proved sufficient, had the more dramatic forecasts made then proved correct. I don't see much movement to bring down rates now. Certainly competitive life offices like Zurich Life, whose rates are already very cheap, are unlikely to contemplate large scale reductions, largely because of changes in taxation and distribution costs since 1988." Zurich Life doubled rates for 30-year-old men in the late Eighties.

Legal & General, where average rates for 30-year-olds more than doubled in the late Eighties, said: "Rates have been adjusted since 1988, but the evidence is still inconclusive in terms of the claims we are currently getting. Aids was only ever one of a number of issues that go into the pricing of life assurance."



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☐ A tax service for American expatriates has been launched by Stoy Hayward, *the accountant. The service is* designed to help American citizens minimise their overall UK and American tax liabilities *while living and working* abroad. Americans and *Green Card holders remain* liable for US tax on their worldwide income, regardless of where it is earned, paid or received. *Because of this liability,* US federal and state tax returns have to be filed. The new service advises on UK and American tax returns, the UK tax implications for American expatriates in Britain, UK inheritance and American estate and gift tax and the double tax treaties on income and gifts.

☐ *Pilling & Company, the* private client stockbroker, has just set up a self-select personal equity plan, which is *available as either a general* or single company pep. There are no initial or management charges. The stockbroking *commission is 1.65 per cent,* with a minimum charge of £30.

☐ Many people are still unaware of the fact that pensions often cost more than homes, according to the Prudential. For instance, people who wish to retire on a pension of £10,000 a year *might need to build up a fund* of about £100,000. For people in company pension schemes, most of the cost is *met by employers. Top up* payments might be made, either by periodic additional voluntary contributions, or via a free-standing AVC, a regular payment plan that might also be set up independently of a company plan.

☐ *The rights of the pension* fund members and pensioners of Farr Group, the collapsed construction *company, will now be* honoured by the previous management. Ernst & Young, the accountant, has *announced that an agree*ment has been reached between the independent trustee appointed last month *and the former chief executive* of the group that will result in the Farr Group pension plan being able to *meet all its obligations* to members and pensioners in full. The chief executive has agreed to ensure the payment *of money to the trustees over a* period of 24 months.

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The Daily Bugle
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Hi-tech trouble for tricksters is on the cards

BY SARA MCCONNELL

USERS of plastic cards could find themselves being asked to supply a fingerprint, a sample of their signature or a voice recording when they apply for a card in a couple of years' time.

As part of the battle against plastic card fraud, banks are researching the most effective means of verifying that a customer using a card is the genuine holder. Technology now on internal trial in banks would allow retailers to compare the fingerprint, voice or signature formation of someone using a card with the original stored on computer. Any of these would make fraudulent use of cards much more difficult.

The need to find effective ways of verifying the identity of cardholders became more pressing this week when figures from the Association for Payment Clearing Services (APACS) showed that banks had lost £165.6 million through card fraud in 1991, 35 per cent more than in 1990. About 75 per cent of card fraud was at point of sale.

This figure does not include losses to retailers through stolen cheques; the Retail Consortium estimated that the total lost through fraud could be nearer £300 million.

APACS last month formed a working group to look at card verification techniques as a first step to evaluating the most practical. Jim Parsons, APACS head of fraud prevention, said the work of evaluation was being shared among the banks. In October, the banks promised Kenneth Baker, the home secretary, that they would commit £500 million over three years to fight fraud. The cost of evaluation and research will be covered by this sum.

Steve Collins, Barclays' project manager, card verification, said the bank was researching voice recognition, digitised signatures and fingerprints as ways of combating fraud at point of sale.

All three need a customer to "enrol" by offering a sample, recording or print that can be stored either centrally on computer or in a microchip on the card itself. When a customer uses the card, he or she would have to sign, speak or pass a finger through a scanner to compare with the stored original.

Barclays received a fingerprint verification machine two weeks ago, which it is now evaluating. Customers would have to give three imprints of fingers and these characteristics would be stored on a template. At point of sale, the customer's finger would be scanned and compared. This technique will be used at the forthcoming Expo 92 fair in Seville, Spain, to check tickets, so it will be put to a practical test during the eight months that the show lasts. Cardholders whose issuers use voice verification would enrol by reading out a list of numbers from a display. Using the system that Barclays is considering, they would need to read 12 strings of five digits. These would then be made into a template. When customers used their cards they would have to repeat one string of five numbers and the machine would decide whether the customer's voice matched that on the template. Mr Collins said: "The operational problem with this is that it takes a proportionately long time and verification is not really practical at point of sale where there could be a lot of background noise, people talking, babies crying and so on. It could be used for mail order purchases."



Action plan: Kenneth Baker given a promise by the banks in battle against fraud

Digitising signatures has the advantage in that signing for a purchase is familiar to customers, Mr Collins said.

A customer would be asked for up to five samples of his or her signature at enrolment, using a special pen attached to a computer. The signature would be digitised and when compared with the customer's signature in a shop, the machine would be able to tell whether the same movements had been made in writing as in the original.

Ron Whatford, TSB's general manager, central services, said: "The machine would measure time taken to sign, pressure used, the number of loops and the size of the signature. It would be good if it could always get it right, but many people modify their signatures and the worry would be that on a number of occasions it wouldn't get it right. The question is how wide and how flexible do we have to have the parameters?"

Like Barclays, TSB has been evaluating different techniques, but both have discounted earlier ideas of retina and iris verification on the ground that customers would find them intrusive.

But the banks and APACS emphasise that biometric techniques are still at an experimental stage and nothing can be ruled out absolutely. In the shorter term, banks are trying other ways of combating fraud. Mr Parsons of APACS said that plans to increase the number of authorisations on transactions were an important interim measure. Using a PIN number at point of sale was also a "strong runner".

TSB is the first English bank to experiment with photocards as a way of combating fraud, following the lead set by Royal Bank of Scotland last October. So far, Royal Bank has received 13,650 applications for the photocard which is offered on the bank's Highline three-in-one cheque guarantee, debit and cashpoint card.

TSB has received applications from 5,000 of the 15,000 Trustcard customers mailed at the beginning of the year to take part in a pilot scheme. Some customers will have only just received their mailings, Mr Whatford said.

The bank will be carrying out a telephone survey of customers using photocards to see how they were received by retailers and what they think of the quality of the card. Customers who did not take up the offer will also be asked why in the same survey. Royal Bank said it was also planning to carry out a survey. The findings will be published through APACS.



Resister: Shabbir Osman sought OFT opinion

Top-Up details customer tariffs

BY BARBARA ELLIS

NEW tariffs being published by banks and building societies for borrowers before the implementation of the banking code on March 16 have prompted at least one other mortgage lender to follow suit. Top-Up Mortgage Services has written to its borrowers with details of its "new administration tariff for mortgage customers".

It said: "Following the initiative taken recently by the clearing banks and in order to set out clearly the terms under which your account is managed, we are writing to advise all of our customers of our current administration charges on their accounts."

The charges include a redemption administration fee of £75 and a three-month interest penalty for failure to give three months' written notice of a redemption. A separate scale, to be levied on people in unauthorised arrears, included a £10 monthly administration charge plus £20 "for every letter we consider necessary to send whilst an account is in arrears", £10 for every telephone call made by Top-Up to discuss proposals to remedy an arrears position, and charges of £25 and £50 respectively for unpaid cheques or direct debits. Customers were also to be charged £10 per statement requested while they were in arrears.

"This tariff will be put into effect immediately and will be reviewed from time to time with any charges being notified in writing to you," Ray White, the credit administration manager, concluded.

Shabbir Osman, one of the borrowers whose loans were part of the mortgage book sold to Top-Up in September 1990 by Provincial Bank, a subsidiary of the failed British and Commonwealth group, said: "There is no mention of administration or redemption charges in my mortgage deed or original contract." He received a letter from Provincial Bank in October 1990 stating that the transfer to Top-Up did not in any way affect borrowers' rights and obligations.

Mr Osman said he would resist what he saw as a second attempt by Top-Up to vary the terms of his contract. A year ago he disputed the firm's right to raise his mortgage rate from 18.125 to 22.125 per cent, despite a written undertaking from Provincial Bank that the rate would be set by reference to Libor plus 3 per cent (about 15 per cent at the time).

After receiving an opinion from the Office of Fair Trading, which he took as backing his view, Mr Osman began making payments at 15 per cent. He felt that Top-Up has accepted this as correct since Brent Gibson of the firm's customer services department confirmed last week that the mortgage was not in arrears.

David Massie, a director and part-owner of Top-Up Mortgage Services, said that the charges described in the letter headed new administration tariff were not new. "These are charges which have been levied effectively in-house," he explained, "charges notified as and when circumstances arose."

When the clearing banks decided to start warning customers in advance of charges Mr Massie said Top-Up thought it a very good idea to be clear with customers. "We spoke to a few of ours who said that they would appreciate knowing the charges they might become liable for."

"We are setting out for the first time exactly what the position is," Mr Massie said. "You should not read too much into the word new, there is nothing new. These are the sort of charges which would be levied by any other lender. It is common practice by banks and building societies.

"We have had dozens, if not hundreds, of calls from customers saying they appreciate this because it lets them know where they stand for the first time," Mr Massie said.

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Fund managers seek rewards in emerging markets

BY RUPERT BRUCE

STOCK markets in the Third World have become the latest fashion for fund managers. They have been impressed by a wave of economic reforms and have been rewarded by sharp rises in share prices recently.

The older "global" emerging markets funds have notched up returns as high as 100 per cent in the past year. Consequently at least three new funds have been launched in the year.

But Dr Mark Mobius, who runs the Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust and is a one of the gurus of Third World markets, does not believe the last year paints a representative picture. "I think there is an element of greed here because people have seen the returns. So it is really a question of people chasing the excellent returns that we have had in these markets. But then I would add it is not realistic that we will get the sorts of returns we have had year after year." he said.

The outstanding performance of these emerging markets funds has been driven by that of the Latin American stock markets. According to Latin American Securities, six Latin American stock markets were in last year's ten best performers.

These stock markets leapt higher as confidence grew in a series of recent one-off reforms designed to revitalise many of Latin America's economies. Basically speaking, governments have allowed companies to compete with one another and foreigners. They hope that will whip them into shape. In this way Latin America's stock markets are typical of "emerging markets" across the globe. The really big stock market gains tend to have come when the countries have introduced reforms to convert themselves into competitive, modern economies.

After that, there can still be high returns. Eduardo Faria, who manages the Latin American Investment Trust, points to Mexico where the initial reforms have been introduced successfully. The country's economy is still growing at a rate of 6 per cent a year, he says, and that should drive the stock market.

Kenneth King, who is the director in charge of Kleinwort Benson Investment Management's offshore Emerging Markets Fund, added that these markets are some of the last remaining places where it is possible to find shares that are cheaper than they should be. "Stock selection can add value because the stocks have not been crawled over by hundreds of fund managers in detail," he said.

But just as these markets can offer high returns, they are also high risk. That is why they do not fall within the range of funds allowed by the Securities and Investments Board to be marketed as unit trusts in this country. Instead they take the form of investment trusts or offshore funds.

The truly global emerging markets funds seek to minimise the risk by investing in as many countries as deemed sensible. The Templeton Emerging Markets Investment Trust invests in 18 stock markets.

According to studies by the International Finance Corporation, whose job it is to promote investment in the Third World, these markets move largely independently of each other and the main world markets. So fund managers argue that investing in shares from a large number of stock markets makes their funds less volatile.

That did not stop the longest running global emerging markets fund, the Templeton Emerging Markets Fund which is traded on the New York Stock Exchange, from falling more than 26 per cent in October 1987 during the stock market crash. But Dr Mobius claims he was invested in only five countries at the time and has subsequently decided to diversify.

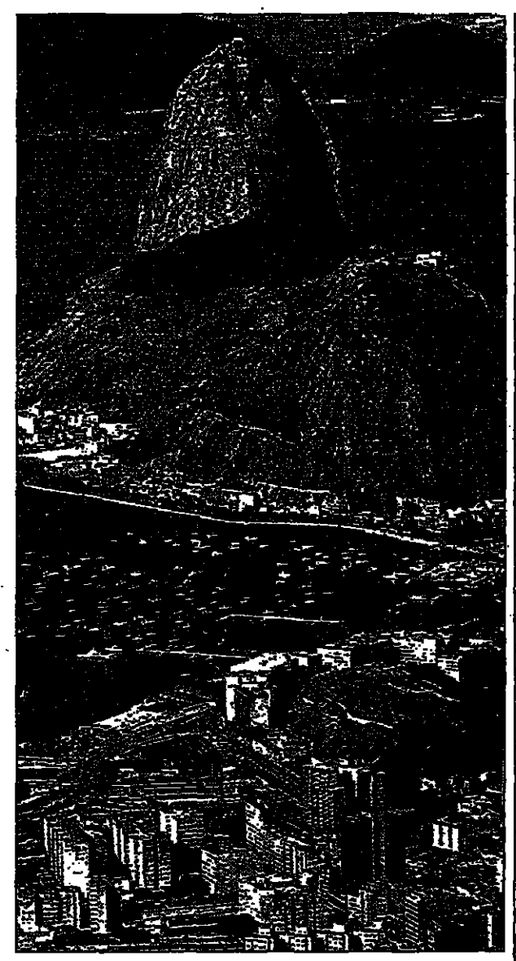
Certainly the fund does seem less volatile than many of the stock markets in which it invests. It has fallen by more than 5 per cent in four calendar months since it was launched in early 1987 and by more than 10 per cent three times. An investment of $100 at launch would be worth almost $350 today.

That is despite hiccups along the way when Templeton bought fake shares but was eventually reimbursed, and the odd instance where governments have decided they will not let foreign investors sell their shares.

Bearing in mind the risk, Dr Mobius would not suggest that investors put much money into emerging stock market investments. He would advise investments of not more than 10, 20 or 30 per cent of a portfolio depending on one's tolerance for risk.

When Dr Mobius was at Templeton's Bahamas headquarters last weekend a young man asked him about the emerging markets funds.

He had invested in one, was aware of and not worried by the risk, and said he would just lock it away for ten years. Dr Mobius regards him as the ideal investor.



High point: Latin America performing well



Mobius: cautious note

CU trust to invest in green ventures

BY SARA MCCONNELL

COMMERCIAL Union has launched the Environmental Trust, its first investment trust, which will invest in companies offering industry environmental clean-up and protection services.

The trust will invest particularly in smaller companies offering water treatment, waste disposal services, emission control, recycling and energy conservation to industries that are being forced by legislation to clean up their act.

The investment strategy will be the same as that of CU's existing environmental fund and will be aimed at creating a portfolio of international smaller company stocks in Britain, America, the Far East and Europe. The stocks will be chosen for their capital growth. Dividends are expected to be modest.

David Keen, director of Commercial Union Investment Management, which will manage the trust, said that although the smaller companies stocks invested in would-be growth stocks and therefore more volatile, the portfolio would be widely diversified. "We don't want too great a commitment to any one company," he said.

The company said: "Cleaning up the environment is likely to become one of the biggest challenges facing the industrial world over the coming decades."

CU is planning to raise up to £30 million in a placing of ordinary shares at 100p each with one warrant for every five shares.

Buying a warrant entitles the holder to buy shares at a specific date or during a specific period, although there is no obligation to buy. They are traded like shares. The offer will close on March 25 and dealings will start on April 3.

Mr Keen said that the trust was mainly intended for institutional investors but that private clients could invest through a financial adviser. There is a front end charge of 4 per cent, which includes a 3 per cent commission for the adviser, and total annual running costs were 1.25 per cent. The trust is not designed for Pep investment.

INTEREST RATES ROUNDUP

	Nominal rate	Compounded at tax rates 25%	40%	Min/max investment £	Notice	Contact
BANKS						
Ordinary Dep A/c: Typical	2.63	2.65	2.12	none/none	7 day	——
Fixed Term Deposits:						
Barclays	7.06	7.06	5.88	25,000-50,000	1 mth	071-626 1567
"	7.36	7.38	5.89	25,000-50,000	3 mth	071-626 1567
Lloyds	5.32	6.32	4.74	2,500-no max	1 mth	Local Brnch
"	6.60	6.60	4.95	02,500-no max	6 mth	Local Brnch
Midland	7.27	7.27	5.82	10,000-no max	1 mth	0742 528655
" " "	7.17	7.17	5.74	10,000-no max	3 mth	0742 528655
NatWest	6.56	6.56	5.25	10,000-24,000	1 mth	071-726 1000
" " "	6.38	6.38	5.10	10,000-24,000	6 mth	071-726 1000
HIGH INTEREST CHEQUE ACCOUNTS						
Bank of Scotland MMC	6.17	6.33	5.06	2,500‡	none	031-442 7777
Barclays Prime a/c	5.78	5.91	4.73	2,500‡	none	0800 252891
Co-operative Ultra	1.90	1.90	1.52	1,000‡	none	071 626 6543
Girobank	5.25	5.25	4.20	1,000‡	none	051 966 2078
Lloyds HICA	1.89	1.89	1.51	1,000‡	none	0272 433372
Midland HICA	4.80	4.85	3.88	2,000‡	none	0742 528655
NatWest Special Reserve	4.59	4.70	3.67	500‡	none	071-374 3374
Royal Bank of Scot Prem A/c	5.63	5.74	4.59	2,000	none	031-556 8555
TSB Bank HICA	4.69	4.69	3.75	2,000‡	none	071-600 6000
BUILDING SOCIETIES						
Ordinary Share A/c	5.25	5.25	4.20	1 min	none	——
Best buy — largest socs:						
Portman	7.01	7.01	5.61	500 min	Inst	——
Northern Rock	8.25	8.25	6.60	2,000 min	Postal	——
Northern Rock	7.73	7.73	6.19	25,000 min	30 day	——
Bldg Midshires	8.33	8.33	6.67	25,000 min	90 day	——
Bradford & Bingley	8.44	8.44	6.75	25,000 min	1 year	——
Best buy — all socs:						
Northern Rock	8.25	8.25	6.60	2,000 min	Postal	——
Cotteliz	7.57	7.57	6.10	5,000 min	30 day	——
City & Metpltn	8.25	8.25	6.60	10,000 min	90 day	——
Cotteliz	8.33	8.33	6.67	2,000 min	90 day	——
Melton Mowbery	8.63	8.63	6.91	50,000 min	1 year	——
Cash/Cheque Accounts:						
Halifax Card Cash	2.25	2.25	1.80	50 min		Rates rise
Alliance & Leic Cash Plus	2.63	2.63	1.97	25 min		with larger
Nationwide Flex	2.25	2.25	1.80	1 min		balances
NATIONAL SAVINGS						
Ordinary A/c†	5.00	3.75	3.00	5-10,000	8 day	041-649-4555
Investment A/c	9.50	7.13	5.70	5-25,000	1 mth	041-649-4555
Income Bond*	10.25	7.69	6.15	2,000-25,000	3 mth	0253 66151
Deposit Bond*☐	10.25	7.69	6.15		3 mth	041-649-4555
36th Issue Cert*†	8.50	8.50	8.50	25-10,000	8 day	091-386 4900
Yearly Plan†	8.50	8.50	8.50	20-200/mth	14 day	091-386 4900
Children's Bond	11.84	11.84	11.84			
Gen Ext Rate†	5.01	5.01	5.01			
Capital Bond	11.50	8.62	6.90	100-100,000	5 yrs	041-649-4555
GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS						
Prosperity	8.70	8.70	7.40	25,000 min	1 yrs	Figures from
Fin Assurance	8.75	8.75	7.44	5,000 min	2 yrs	Chase de
Canada Life	8.80	8.80	7.48	50,000 min	3 yrs	Vere
Fin Assurance	8.75	8.75	7.44	5,000 min	4 yrs	071 404 5788
Fin Assurance	9.00	9.00	7.65	5,000 min	5 yrs	for details

		Holiday rates	£ buys
RPI (Jan 91-92)	+4.1%	Spanish Pesetas:	174.50
Bank Base Rate	10.5%	French Francs:	9.48
Personal Loan	24%	Greek Drachmas:	323.00
Credit Card	19.9-32%	Italian Lire:	2105.00

*£2.5% for balances below £500. first £70 of interest tax free, instant access for withdrawals of £100 or less. ‡ Additional holdings up to £10,000 for investors re-investing proceeds of maturing matured certificates †Tax free *Interest taxable paid gross ‡Higher rates for larger sums ☐ No longer on sale

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DANGER LOANS

Lender	Interest Rate %	Loan Size	Max %	Notes
BUILDING SOCIETIES				
Birmingham Midshire 0902 710710	9.85	to 200k	80	discounted by 1.10% until 31.5.93
Buckinghamshire 02407 3064	7.75	to 400k	80	After 3% discount for 6 months
Greenwich 081 858 8212	8.99	£30	94	Guaranteed at least 2% below standard
BANKS				
B N P Mortgages 071 929 4002	9.85	£15,001+	95	After 2% off until 3.5.92
OTHER (INSURANCE COMPANY)				
Acuma Life 0784 430003	9.90	£16k-£25k	95	Rate shown after 1.7% off

Figures supplied by Bing's Guides Ltd: Telephone 0753 880482.

BRIEFINGS

THE Inland Revenue received 84,000 calls in three weeks from savers wanting to get back the tax deducted from their accounts. The tax back campaign, which began on February 9, enables savers who are not taxpayers to reclaim tax. Those who are just over the limit can also claim if the tax amounts to more than £50. They have to wait until April 6 before making claims for smaller sums. Information is available on the freephone helpline 0800 66 0800.

☐ Scottish Provident, the life company, has published a free leaflet on the carrying back, or carrying forward, of tax relief at the end of the tax year. The guide, for people contributing to personal pension plans and retirement annuities, assists in the calculation of maximum contributions. Copies of the leaflet are available from the company's area offices.

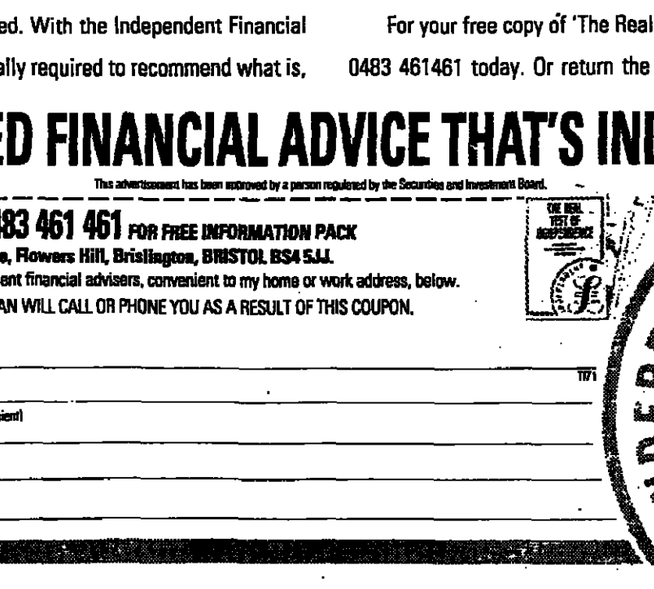
☐ People's reluctance to make a will has been highlighted again, this time by a survey commissioned by GA Financial Consultants, a subsidiary of the General Accident insurance company. The survey discovered that 62 per cent of people over 18 in Britain have not made a will. GA is launching a new will-making service in conjunction with Hambro Legal Protection.

☐ Schroder Investment Management is offering free personal equity plan transfers for investors unhappy with the current performance of their existing plan. Peps can be transferred into either the income or capital growth pep options. Special forms have been produced to help the process. Rod Duncan, deputy managing director of Schroder Unit Trusts, said: "Pep transfers are a virtually untapped market — we are already getting a lot of interest from investors. Up until now they have been put off by the amount of their investment they lose on transfer charges."

☐ Concern about the role of pension fund trustees, highlighted by problems with the Mirror Group fund, has prompted many companies to consider the idea of appointing independent trustees to safeguard the interests of fund members. C E Heath has a new company that will be able to act in tandem with, or in place of, existing pension fund trustees. C E Heath Trustee Company will act independently of Heath's employee benefits and financial services subsidiaries.

☐ Girobank has produced a leaflet for its Visa customers telling them how interest is calculated, how credit limits are set and what customers should do if cards are stolen or faulty items purchased.

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Money and the modern woman

BY LIZ DOLAN

MOST women do not want to be treated differently from men when receiving advice on financial matters, especially if they are singled out in a patronising way, a survey has found.

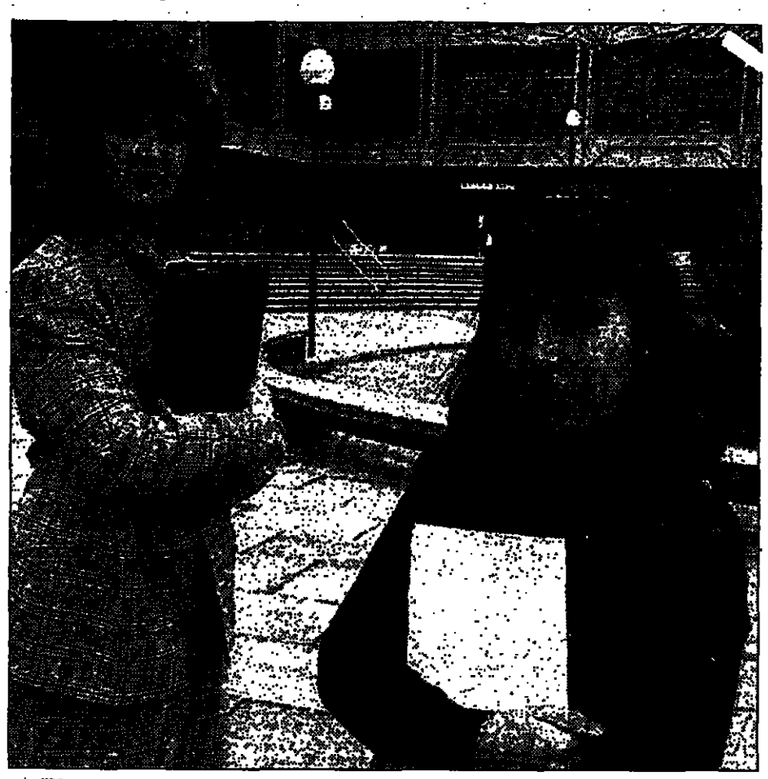
Undaunted by this fact, London Life, which commissioned the survey, has joined the ever-growing list of financial services companies trying to tap an increasingly sophisticated female market, whose disposable income continues to grow.

The company is running a series of seminars aimed at attracting more business from professional women. Jill Tompkins, one of the company's marketing managers, agreed it was difficult to conduct such a campaign without singling out women as a separate breed. Only one in ten of London Life's salesforce is female, and the men will be asked to try particularly hard not to appear patronising, she said.

Nearly 350 female company directors replied to questions about their attitude to their personal finances. Four out of five respondents were married, or living with someone; a further one in ten had been married previously.

One third asked their partners' advice about financial matters; more than 10 per cent still allowed partners to make financial decisions for them. London Life could think of no reason why so few single people had replied, but denied it could have been because female directors were often married to co-directors. Many respondents ran one-woman businesses, it said.

Fiona Price, the managing director of Fiona Price & Partners, the independent financial adviser, said: "These sort of initiatives have become a lot more common over the past two years, especially the last 12 months. It has become a bit of a bandwagon, quite frankly. Its only real use is to raise awareness of women's needs. The truth is, women don't buy products, they buy service. It is the sales environment that matters most to them."



Women to women: Lynda Clifford (left) and Jill Tompkins are planning to hold seminars for professional females at the London Life offices, Bristol

All the company's staff are female, as were 80 per cent of the clients, she said. Women tend to prefer professional advice to come from another woman, she added — not the best news for London Life to hear at the start of its new campaign.

Lynda Clifford, sales and marketing strategy manager with London Life, said there were no plans to produce any new products that specifically targeted women. Existing products would probably suffice. It was more a question of making sure certain needs were addressed, notably in the pensions area, she said. For instance, London Life's existing flexible pension plan was ideal for women who wanted to take a career break to bring up children.

There were two main considerations when marketing to women. Pension needs are important because they live longer than men, and working patterns are often affected by children. Second, loyalty, trust and long-term relationships with financial advisers were more important to women than men.

She claimed that, because London Life was a non-commission paying company, its sales staff were salaried, and could therefore afford to spend longer on building up a relationship, rather than making a quick sale.

Ms Price agreed that there was no need to devise products specifically for women. A lot of men were also keen to take out stop-start pensions for a whole range of reasons, from redundancy fears to plans for a mid-career break.

Norwich Union caused a stir last month when it launched a television advertisement featuring a glamorous, successful woman with an impoverished musician-husband whom she had to subsidise.

The company said it believed this approach would strike a chord among the growing number of financially independent women. It said that it was trying to highlight the importance of the modern woman, although critics of the advertisement said this particular example appeared as though she was more exploited than in charge of events.

Most companies target women via leaflets and awareness campaigns rather than custom-made products, although Norwich Union has produced a motor policy whose premiums are lower because it is available only to women drivers and because use of the car is limited to "social, domestic or pleasure".

Barclays published a booklet for women last year called *Financial Awareness for the 90s*. The National & Provincial Building Society has produced a series of leaflets for women, and gives instant information via a telephone helpline, 0800 590682.

The telephone service has received more than 25,000 calls over three years. Although aimed at women, half the calls came from men, showing perhaps that insurance companies eager to educate women should bear in mind that there is a general need for more basic, jargon-free information. Scottish Equitable also publishes leaflets for intermediaries telling them how to advise women clients.

Campaign on retirement age for women grows

THE Equal Opportunities Commission wants to hear from all women who feel harshly treated in the move to equalise retirement ages (Liz Dolan writes).

A spokeswoman said: "We are trying to get this problem sorted out as early as possible and the more case law we can build up, the better. Anyone who feels she has a good case against her employer should get in touch with us."

The EOC, chaired by Joanna Foster, said this week that it would back the case of 91 women from Avdel Systems, an engineering firm in Welwyn Garden City, whose decision to add five years to the working life of female staff was disclosed on the notice board.

The EOC said: "The decision was simply made overnight. One woman, in her late fifties, had been there for 34 years. Instead of retiring in a couple of years' time, she suddenly discovered that she would have to continue for five years after that. A lot of women, when told that they would now have to work until they are 65, have just accepted the information. They are now beginning to realise that there is something wrong."

A survey disclosed that 60 per cent of employers have decided to equalise retirement ages at the higher limit. The EOC says that, apart from the obvious unfairness of taking such a decision, it is concerned that it may not even be lawful. "Equalising upwards without consultation or protection appears to be adding insult to injury."

Even where the retirement age remains at 60, women were disadvantaged by factors such as lower pay and career breaks for children and a misguided belief that they would be adequately cared for by the state pension scheme, the EOC said. Recent figures showed only one third of women had pension plans in their own names.



Foster: changes wrong

The rush to equalise retirement ages was prompted by the 1990 European Court of Justice ruling in the case of Barber versus Guardian Royal Exchange, which said pensions counted as pay. This meant that, under European law, there could be no discrimination over the age at which they should begin to be paid.

Company pension schemes said they could not afford to finance schemes in which the retirement age for male employees was lowered to 60. The National Association of Pension Funds gave warning that some employers might be forced to wind up their schemes if the retirement age was equalised downwards.

Instead of considering other measures, such as retirement for all at 62, or 63, most schemes have decided on the cheapest option — the most painful for female employees.

The first case to receive EOC backing was that of 30 women working for Cooper Oil Tool, of Leeds, which the commission took up in December 1991.

Nearly half of customers dissatisfied

Anger with banks grows

YET more evidence of people's growing irritation with the service provided by the big five high street banks has been supplied by Firstdirect, a subsidiary of Midland Bank, one of the five (Liz Dolan writes).

Virtually half of all account holders with the main banks are not particularly satisfied with the service they are getting, according to Firstdirect. Only 37 per cent of people who have accounts with the big banks were prepared to recommend their services to other people, the subsidiary said.

High street banks do not open at times when a growing number of customers wish to carry out basic banking activities, such as paying bills, transferring money and setting up standing orders.

The peak period for calls to Firstdirect starts at 8 am, one-and-a-half hours before other banks open their doors. By 10.30 am, calls to Firstdirect are slowing down considerably, just one hour after opening time for the big five. The next busiest period starts at 5 pm, when conventional banks have closed.

Last month, an average 1,500 people a day called Firstdirect between 8 pm and 8 am. Even on Christmas Day and Boxing Day, 1,220 people felt the need for telephone banking.

Building societies appear to command more support from customers. Nearly 70 per cent questioned in the survey said they were very, or extremely, satisfied with the service offered by their building society, and nearly half were prepared to recommend them to others.

Firstdirect is currently signing up about 4,500 new customers each month, nearly one third of whom come from its parent, Midland. While accepting that the type of service it provides would not suit everyone, it calculates that the potential market for telephone banking is currently 3 million people in the United Kingdom, rising to 6 million by the end of the decade.

The major banks are just beginning to recognise the need for a more flexible approach.

National Westminster has launched its own direct banking service, Primeline. The rest are expected to set up a similar service. They will find, however, that just to provide a telephone banking service is not enough in itself.

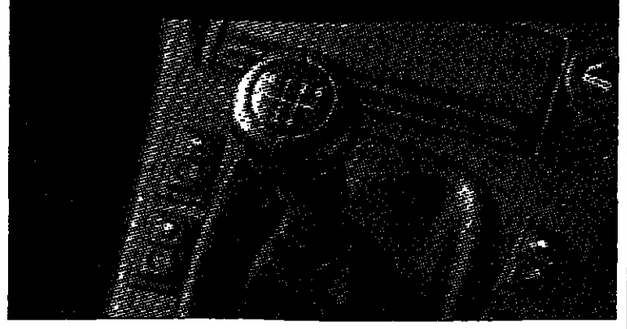
Firstdirect reports that 64 per cent of its customers expect to be answered within 20 seconds of dialling the number.

One third of the bank's account holders said that they had hung up at some point because they could not get through. Nearly 20 per cent of those too impatient to hang on, have rung off more than three times in the last six months, despite the fact that the average answering time is just nine seconds.

Firstdirect is currently dealing with up to 9,000 calls a day. Most people call once a month. One in five account holders call an average of three times a month. A typical call lasts three minutes, representing an enormous saving on the time it takes to visit a conventional high street bank.

Firstdirect also finds an increasing number of customers ring up when abroad, another service that would be denied to them by most other banks.

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The value of tax savings will depend on individual circumstances. Assumptions about tax advantages and the availability of the 1992/93 PEP may be subject to future statutory change. Issued by Fidelity Nominees Limited, a member of IMRO. T358

Revenue offers tax contact for life with the same office

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

A LIFELONG relationship with the same tax office is promised in the next stage of the reform of the Inland Revenue.

The distinction between tax offices and collection offices should also disappear, bringing an end to the frustrations of thousands of taxpayers who are faced with a bill and the threat of court proceedings if they do not pay, when they know that the Revenue actually owes them money.

The Next Steps Action Plan detailed yesterday by Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, will begin to be implemented from next month. Later this year, taxpayers in Leeds, Norwich, Walsall and Birkenhead will begin to test the theories to see if they work. They will have centres dealing with all of their tax affairs.

For most of the 30 million taxpayers, the most important changes will be that their papers or computer records will remain in the same office from the first day they pay tax until their estate has paid its last penny.

At the moment, people's tax records are shipped around the country every time they change jobs and if they have a part-time job, or freelance earnings, or employ a cleaner or nanny, they have to deal with many offices. The opportunity for confusion and letters crossing in the internal mail system should be avoided.

A network of taxpayer assistance offices is also promised for high streets throughout Britain.

The changes will take years to implement. April 1 will be a starting point. From then taxpayers who are not part of the pilot schemes will begin to notice the letter headings changing on letters from tax officials.

There is no overnight solution to a system that has grown up over centuries and has not kept pace with the complicated and mobile lives taxpayers lead.

Coupled with the changes is a planned reduction in staff by between 10 per cent and 15 per cent. A new system of pay and grading is proposed that would rely largely on assessment of performance. Taxpayers may find that service will improve if the next payrise depends on the number of complaints and unresolved problems.

It was John Major, when he was Chancellor, who asked the Inland Revenue in 1990 to prepare an action plan to enable the department to extend internal delegation and accountability and to examine the ways of reshaping the organisation of its work.

Last month, the Revenue published details of the taxpayers' charter. This also promises improvements starting next month.

From April 17, tax enquiry centres will start to open longer hours from as early as 8 am on some days and up to 8 pm on others. The 400 offices currently open 10 am to 4 pm.

The number of people using the centres out of ordinary hours should determine the hours of all offices eventually.

Those taking part in the longer hours experiment are in Belfast, Birmingham, Bury St Edmunds, Croydon, East Kilbride, Liverpool, Manchester, Newcastle, Newport (Wales), Plymouth, Reading, Romford, Sheffield, Southampton, Southend, Torquay and Watford.

The Inland Revenue's mobile centres are also set to visit more locations to help taxpayers sort out their affairs. The Revenue has also set a target turnround time for taxpayers to receive replies to queries. It begins in April and from then 90 per cent of letters should be fully dealt with in 28 days. Others should get a letter telling them of the delay and stating when the matter will be dealt with.

Simpler forms are also on the way, but not in time for this year's 8 million tax returns due to be sent out next month.

Rules changed on redundancy cover

BY SHIRLEY DAVENPORT

HOMEOWNERS who took out mortgage protection insurance that covered them for voluntary redundancy might find the terms of their policies have been changed to exclude it.

Although most insurers have refused to cover voluntary redundancy, a few of the earlier schemes allowed it to be considered. However, the policies, which pay the mortgage for one or two years when income is lost through sickness, accident or unemployment, have had to meet increasing redundancy claims, and the insurers are changing the rules.

The companies say that covering voluntary redundancy is inappropriate since insurance is basically meant to safeguard individuals from events beyond their control. Policyholders might argue that the alternatives to voluntary redundancy offered by their companies were so unacceptable that leaving was anything but voluntary.

At present, only Lloyds Bank will cover borrowers for voluntary redundancy. Its policy covers unemployment for a maximum of 12 months, and accident and sickness for two years. With the premium at £5 per £100, the cost of protecting a £400 monthly mortgage or bank loan repayment, for instance, would be £20.

But the policy is under review and any changes are likely to affect existing policies. A Lloyds spokesman said: "It is one of the earlier schemes. We wanted to offer the broadest range of cover to avoid confusion over what kind of unemployment was covered. But we are not pushing it currently. Policies are kept under constant review and assessed according to current events and trends."



Until recently, the Halifax Building Society offered a policy that would consider claims for voluntary redundancy. The society had excluded it since changing to another insurance group. A spokesman said: "Voluntary redundancy would have been considered on the basis that some people may have been targeted more than others."

Alliance & Leicester, which withdrew cover for voluntary redundancy recently, blames its action on the high number of redundancy claims — some voluntary — in the past year. London & Edinburgh, provider of its payment protection policy, explained that excluding voluntary redundancy kept down premium costs.

"Although we still cover compulsory redundancy, if we continued to extend cover to voluntary redundancy, premiums would have to increase to such a level as to make the policy unmarketable," a spokesman said.

"If our claims department felt that a borrower had no choice in a matter of voluntary redundancy, that would be taken into consideration."

Insurers investigating an unemployment claim make a check with the employer. The problem is often in deciding whether redundancy is really voluntary. In the past 25 years, voluntary redundancy has become the most common method of staff reduction.

"The term 'voluntary' is the employers' word and frequently they make people an offer they know they can't refuse," Bill Daniel, director of the Policy Studies Institute, said. "Although a voluntary redundancy approach generally benefited both employers and employees, in some situations the term was questionable."

With redundancies soaring to 232,700 last year — an increase of more than 74,000 over the previous year — the trades unions' view is that voluntary redundancy is preferable to the compulsory kind. The Union of Communication Workers, which is bracing itself for thousands of job losses in the Post Office and Royal Mail this year, agrees that voluntary redundancy is the "humane" route. "Sometimes there is a little game played in declaring redundancies voluntary or compulsory," a union spokesman said.

"In many cases it might be fairer to describe what goes on as compulsory voluntary redundancy. It is not so much being made an offer you cannot refuse, as being presented with the only offer short of being made compulsorily redundant.

"Redundancy can be purely voluntary where the workplace remains open with a smaller staff, but the usual scenario is that the entire workplace closes and employees are offered voluntary redundancy or an alternative job so far from home that it becomes unacceptable for those with family commitments. In some cases it may also mean total earnings being depressed if there is no opportunity for overtime or bonuses in the new job."

One policyholder who finds himself in this position hopes to persuade his insurance company that voluntary redundancy is occasionally forced on employees. He has been notified that his policy does not cover him for voluntary redundancy.

"My problem is that my employers have stated publicly that all their redundancies are voluntary," he said. "Anyone not wanting to take redundancy is offered a job well below the usual grade and far from the present locality."

Cheap dealing extended

BY SARA MCCONNELL

THE Norwich and Peterborough Building Society is extending its cheap dealing rates on BT shares and 37 other privatisation issues until the end of the month. Cheap rates have been offered by Norwich and Peterborough and seven other government-designated share shops since dealing in the second issue of BT shares started in December.

Cheap dealing through the share shops officially ends on Monday, but Philip Dearing, Norwich and Peterborough's general manager, development, said demand had picked up, especially in the past few weeks. "Prices have firmed up, particularly in stocks like BA and the electricity and water companies," he said. "There must be some awareness that the cheap deals are ending soon. The phones are ringing."

Four times as many people had sold shares as had bought them since dealing started in BT shares and the share shops had started their special offers, Mr Dearing said. The society has done 9,000 deals. Norwich and Peterborough set the lowest rate of all the share shops, charging £9.50 per transaction for BT share deals. Buying or selling other privatisation stocks costs a minimum of £14 per company for up to £1,400 of stock. Above this, the cost is one per cent of the value of the stock.

Families of up to four people with the same surname can also deal at these rates. Dealing was through branches, which people found easier than dealing by post or phone, Mr Dearing said.

The society accepted business from customers and non-customers for the first time as a share shop. It will now extend its normal execution-only share-dealing service to non-customers. This service has been offered through branches since 1987, but previously it was open only to the society's own investors and proceeds of share sales were paid into Norwich and Peterborough accounts. Non-customers will be able to arrange for cheques to be sent to their home address. Mr Dearing said: "We have had to turn away business from non-customers, which naturally we did not want to do."

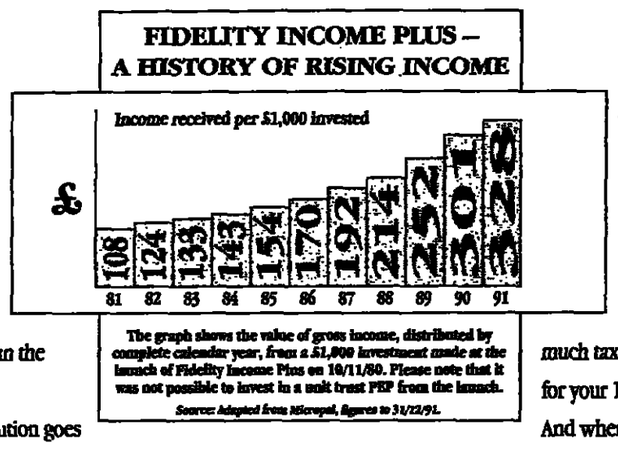
Other institutions designated as share shops for the BT offer are mostly winding up their special offers on Monday and reverting to their normal dealing rates. Abbey National, which set a minimum charge of £13.50 for postal selling and £15 for phone buying, described business as "up and down". It said: "We can't say whether it was a success or not. Market conditions haven't been that good."

Dealing through the Abbey after Monday will cost £24.50 by phone or £17.50 by post.

Lloyds is also planning to finish its special dealing rate on Monday. Barclays intends to make an announcement on its rates next week.

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Fidelity Investments

†Estimated gross annual yield (net of charges) as at 19/2/92.

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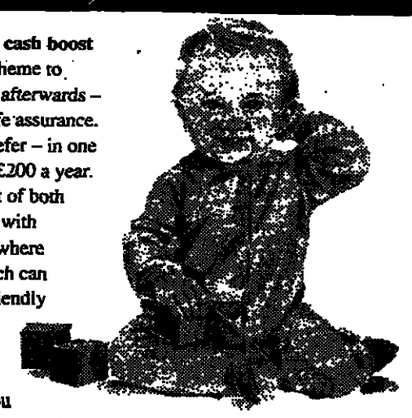
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Soaring claims push up cost of holiday cover

Travel insurance to rise

BY LIZ DOLAN

HOLIDAYMAKERS will have to pay up to 25 per cent more for their travel insurance this summer. The increases are likely to hit travellers to America hardest, but the cost of cover for most other parts of the world has also risen steeply.

Commercial Union, one of the country's largest travel insurers, now charges £62.80 for a 23-day stay in the US, compared with £51.80 last year. Norwich Union has increased the cost of cover for a fortnight's holiday in North America from £46.40 to £55.70.

A spokesman for Commercial Union said: "Last year was not a good one for travel insurers generally. One of the worst areas was the US, where medical costs can be four times as high as those in Europe."

Mike Turner, managing director of Travelcare, the holiday insurance broker based in Chislehurst, Kent, said: "Hospitals tend to ramp charges when they know people are insured. People have been charged £40 for a bandage in the US, and even standard blood tests there cost between $200 and $250. Certain areas of Europe are also beginning to cotton on. We're now seeing much higher claims coming in from Spain, for instance."

Commercial Union has increased the premium for 17 days in Europe by £3 to £17.60. Fourteen-day cover in Europe from Norwich Union is up by 10 per cent, from £18.50 to £20.35. Premiums for NU's more specialised policies, such as Motoring Holiday Plus and Ski Holiday Plus, have risen pro rata.

Home and Overseas, a subsidiary of Eagle Star, is the country's largest travel insurer with 35 per cent of the market. Martin Mills, the business manager, said H&O's US premiums were "definitely no more than 15 per cent higher" this year, and premiums generally had increased by "an average of 10 per cent".

He said the reason for comparatively lower US increases could be the charging of more realistic premiums in previous years. Travel insurers have suffered badly from the effects of intense competition over the past few years. Travel agents and tour operators are normally heavily dependent on insurance commissions, which account for between 25 and 40 per cent of the premium. Insurers say that travel firms have pressed underwriters into quoting uneconomically low rates, rather than sacrifice their own commission levels.

The insurance companies, reeling after two years of soaring claims and falling income across most categories of business, cannot afford to offer the same cheap deals any more.

Most people buy insurance from the firm providing their holiday, because it is the easiest way of obtaining cover. The Consumers' Association, however, gives a warning that most holiday insurance policies fall short of its recommended levels of cover and advises careful selection.

It recommends the following minimum levels of cover. Medical expenses: £250,000 in Europe; £1 million elsewhere. Cancellation: Cost of holiday, including deposit and any other charges paid in advance. Baggage: £1,500; the maximum per item is normally £250, so expensive equipment should be insured separately unless it is covered on a household policy. All-risk extension clauses normally cover possessions outside the home for 60 days. Delays: £75 to buy emergency supplies if baggage is delayed. An option to cancel should be available if outward flights are delayed by more than 24 hours. Money and documents such as traveller's cheques, passport and tickets: £400, including £250 cash. Personal liability: £2 million in the US; £1 million elsewhere.

Some firms, such as Saga, have compulsory insurance policies, but the association is lobbying for their abolition because they deny choice. It also criticises operators who do not give customers full policy details.

Many credit and debit cards offer free travel accident cover to people who use the cards to book holidays. Gold cards sometimes have free insurance for the holiday as well.

Banks and building societies have a host of special deals to encourage holidaymakers to use their services. Lloyds Bank is offering a three-day break in Paris and Euro Disneyland for families who take out ten days' travel insurance through the bank. People who book through Norwich & Peterborough's travel agency, Catours, get a one-in-twenty chance of winning the total cost of their holiday, up to £2,000. Catours customers also get an equivalent holiday, or total refund, within 24 hours if their tour operator goes bankrupt.



Shade of comfort: travellers to Europe will fare better from insurance deals than those to America

Offshore brokers pick up perks in return for clinching sales

BOTTLES of champagne, lap-top computers, watches, Mont Blanc pens, hi-fi equipment, duty-free and all-expenses paid jamborees in grass-skirt islands are among the lucrative "soft commissions" offered by insurance companies to offshore financial advisers.

Offshore intermediaries are not governed by the "soft commission" rules that apply to UK-based financial advisers under the Financial Services Act. As such, they are exposed to a broad range of inducements from large insurance groups jockeying for access to their international and UK clients.

Most nominally independent offshore intermediaries are swayed by promises of override commissions — cash payments of up to 20 per cent over the basic commission rate for generating sales above a prescribed threshold.

Such override payments feed through to investors, on top of the basic commission fees he or she pays. Offshore, these are often already higher than the UK's commission rates payable to brokers.

A maximum investment plan, a ten-year investment bond sold widely offshore, carries an up-front fee of about 40 per cent of the first year's premium.

In the UK, such override commissions — or material bribes — are outlawed by the Financial Services Act. According to the Securities and Futures Authority, an insurance company can provide an independent broker only with "goods and services which can reasonably be expected to assist in the provision of investment services to the firm's customers".

They include the provision of economic research, portfolio valuations, market price services, computer hardware, dedicated phone lines, seminar fees (where the seminar relates to investment) and investment publications. The broker is obliged by law to divulge these legitimate soft commissions to the customer.

The Securities and Futures Authority said: "If the life office can stand with its hand on its heart and say that what it is giving to an intermediary helps him to do his job better, then it's permissible, but it's also disclosable." Freebies such as free holidays and seminars in Marbella on "How to Improve Your Golf Game" are not permitted in the UK. Offshore, the picture is radically different. Not only are soft commissions allowed, they are widespread and non-disclosable to the client.

All the main offshore insurance groups — Eagle Star, Clerical Medical International, Sun Alliance, Providence Capitol and Equity & Law — regularly pay their brokers override commissions and other perks in return for sales.

While these incentives make economic sense for the life office and the broker, they can lumber the investor with enormous up-front costs.

Towry Law, a large offshore broker which insists that it refuses soft commissions, said that the "smaller, newer life offices, not the large ones" were the main culprits.

A spokesman said: "The closest we ever get to being offered a soft commission is when a local insurance representative says, 'I will stump up lunch for you boys'.

"But some companies say 'if you do volume business you'll get a bottle of bubbly', an interest-free loan or a holiday abroad," he added.

Whether an intermediary receives an extra case of Moët et Chandon for clinching a sale may not bother too many people, if the product is sound and the advice helpful. But a life office might meet a more disgruntled response from customers who discovered that their premiums were being used to pay for a broker's surfing holiday in the South Pacific.

Providence Capitol, Eagle Star, and Clerical Medical International are keen on throwing broker shindigs in "exotic" locations. In recent years, Canada, Hawaii and Val d'Isère have been among the more luxurious choices of venue. These have been mainly aimed at master agencies of semi-tied brokers who are regularly used by the companies and recognised as such by their clients.

A more insidious manifestation of the soft commission is the provision of interest-free loans and grants to finance offshore intermediaries' offices in far-flung places. Such "invisible" perks are non-disclosable, and the cost is absorbed completely by the premiums and initial fees.

Reticence is rampant in the offshore world, and few will go on record about the kinds of extras available. However, weekends in Bangkok are not unknown; nor are Caribbean cruises with hula dancers in tow.

PAUL HAM

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TERMS AND CONDITIONS

SHARE EXCHANGE AND UNIT TRUST EXCHANGE PROCEDURES

Exchanging your share or unit trust holdings is a separate transaction from starting your TaxHaven Plan because your holdings have to be sold before your TaxHaven investment is made. We will accept any marketable UK shares or any certificated UK authorised unit trust holdings (which must be properly renounced). Please note we reserve the right to return unsaleable securities.

Shares/units will normally be sold within two working days of receipt. You will receive a copy of the relevant contract note(s), together with stock transfer form(s), where appropriate, which you will need to sign and return to us as quickly as possible. Proceeds of the sale of securities will normally be received on the relevant Stock Exchange account settlement date. Unit trust settlement is usually received on the fourth business day following receipt of the relevant cover by the management company concerned. You will receive a statement of all transactions with details of all business undertaken on your behalf. The sale of shares and/or unit trusts is a disposal for Capital Gains Tax purposes. The annual personal exemption from Capital Gains Tax is currently £5,500 of net realised profits.

We will sell your total shares/unit holding(s) in respect of all valid certificates attached to this application and return a cash balance (if appropriate) unless you instruct us otherwise. You may be requested to forward to the Plan Manager any dividends, distributions or letters providing information or conferring any rights concerning the shareholding(s) following the change of ownership. A charge will be made in respect of securities sold through the Share and Unit Trust Exchange Service where investors exercise their Cooling-Off Rights.

TAXHAVEN TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Definitions (i) "Investor" means the individual named in the Application Form as the Applicant. (ii) "Plan" means the INVESCO MIM Management Ltd. General Personal Equity Plan (PEP) taken out by the Investor and references to the Plan shall apply to all Plans established in accordance with these Terms and Conditions, separately. (iii) "Plan Manager" means INVESCO MIM Management Ltd, which has been approved by the Commissioners of the Inland Revenue to act as a plan manager and which is a member of the Investment Management Regulatory Organisation (IMRO) and as such the conduct of its investment business is regulated by IMRO. (iv) "Regulations" means the Personal Equity Plan Regulations issued by H.M. Treasury as amended from time to time. (v) "Tax Year" means the tax year from 6th April one year to 5th April in the next. (vi) "Associated Company" means any holding company of the Plan Manager or a subsidiary of any such holding company (as such terms are defined in the Companies Act 1985).

2. General (i) INVESCO MIM Management Ltd. shall act as Plan Manager for the Investor in order to provide the benefits of a Personal Equity Plan in accordance with the Regulations and subject to these Terms and Conditions. (ii) Investors may invest in only one general PEP per Tax Year and by completing the application warrant that they so do with their own cash. (iii) Investors will not receive unsolicited calls from the Plan Manager. (iv) Applications will be acknowledged in writing by the Plan Manager. (v) The Plan Manager reserves the right from time to time to amend the Terms and Conditions providing any amendment does not result in the Plan ceasing to qualify under the Regulations. The Plan Manager will notify the Investor in writing of any such changes at least 14 days prior to any changes taking effect. (vi) The Plan Manager is an authorised person under the Financial Services Act 1986. Details of compensation rights can be obtained from the Plan Manager's Compliance Officer or direct from the Securities and Investments Board. Any complaints should be referred, in writing, to the Head of Investor Services, INVESCO MIM Management Ltd., for investigation. Investors also have the right to complain directly to IMRO or the Investment Referee.

3. Investment (i) Investment in the Plan may be made with cash or cheques only. (ii) The Plan Manager will, where relevant, be entitled, without prior disclosure or reference to the Investor, to effect or arrange investments in which it, or an Associated Company may be interested including where the Plan Manager or an Associated Company has underwritten, managed, or arranged an issue or offer for sale during the previous twelve months. (iii) Distributions of income received within the Plan together with the appropriate tax credits and any interest arising from cash balances will be retained within the Plan unless otherwise agreed with the Investor. (iv) Accrual yields could vary from estimates due to changes in the amounts and timing of company dividends. Any initial yield should be regarded as an indication only. Income distributions on income paying PEPs will normally be made twice yearly on dates to be notified by the Plan Manager. Payment is expected to be within one month of the relevant distribution dates and may be subject to a minimum level of income available for distribution. The minimum figure is £10 (subject to change). (v) All investments held under the Plan will be held in the name of a designated nominee who will normally be an Associated Company. The Plan Manager will only accept liability for the negligence or default of third parties where they are Associated Companies. (vi) The Investor will be the beneficial owner of all investments held within the Plan. Documents evidencing title will be held by, or on behalf of, the Plan Manager. (vii) The Plan Manager shall not be responsible for losses unless due to its negligence or wilful default.

4. Management (i) Pending investment or reinvestment, cash will be held in a Client Bank Account with the Royal Bank of Scotland Plc (or such other bank as the Plan Manager may from time to time nominate). Any cash held in the Plan will attract interest. (ii) Investors will be given an asset valuation and a statement of transactions as at the 5th April and 5th October or at such other dates as may be determined by the Plan Manager, in each case within twenty-five business days from the reporting date. Reports are not expected to include a measure of performance but, annually will contain a statement of the reasons for the purchases, sales and holding of investments. (iii) The Plan Manager will, if requested in writing, supply to the Investor copies of entries in its books relating to the Investor and may make a charge for this service. (iv) Investments will not be lent by the Plan Manager to a third party. The Plan Manager will not commit the Investor to any underwriting or borrow on his behalf. (v) The Investor hereby warrants that he/she is and will remain the sole, unencumbered beneficial owner of the assets held under the Plan. (vi) If the tax-free element of the scheme is withdrawn, the Plan will continue to be managed by the Plan Manager. New Terms and Conditions will be sent to investors. (vii) Management fees may be supplemented but will not be abated by any other remuneration receivable by the Plan Manager in connection with transactions effected by the Plan Manager with or for the Investor under this or any other agreement. (viii) The Plan Manager may provide the Inland Revenue with all relevant particulars and certificates as may be required under the Regulations and may conduct appeals or agree on behalf of the Investor all liabilities to, and reliefs from, tax in respect of the Plan. (ix) The Plan Manager will have authority to manage the Plan in its absolute discretion, subject to the Regulations. It is the normal policy of the Plan Manager to keep the Plan fully invested in shares listed on the International Stock Exchange, although investments may also be made in UK authorised unit trusts. (x) Associated Companies may act as principal in dealings with the Investor and may select brokers (including Associated Companies) to deal in securities in such transactions. Such Associated Companies may retain all remuneration derived from such transactions and shall not be liable to account to the Investor for the same. (xi) The Plan Manager may transact business on behalf of the Investor, with a person or persons who provide statistical research and other services to either the Plan Manager or any Associated Company, without payment to them of a fee. Any transaction with or through the agency of any such person will be effected for best execution, disregarding any benefits which might enure directly or indirectly to the Investor from these services or benefits under such an agreement. (xii) On request, and for an extra annual fee of £50 (+ VAT), the Investor can receive company reports. (xiii) For an additional £50 (+VAT) per annum the Investor can attend shareholders' meetings and exercise his voting rights. (xiv) The Plan Manager will make an initial charge and an annual charge payable quarterly in arrear. The current initial charge is 5% and the current annual charge is 1.5%. These fees may be varied by the Plan Manager on three months' notice. The Plan Manager will not levy charges for dealings within the Plan although brokerage or equivalent costs will be charged. VAT and stamp duty will be charged in addition if applicable.

5. Instructions, Termination of Plans and Withdrawal of Cash (i) The Investor by giving written notification to the Plan Manager may at any time:- (a) terminate the Plan; (b) withdraw in whole or part the market value of the assets at the current bid price, less brokerage, or equivalent costs, held under the Plan or; (c) transfer assets held under the Plan in each case subject to any retentions or deductions which the Plan Manager may be entitled or bound to make hereunder or under the Regulations. The Plan Manager will transfer the Plan to another plan manager if requested to do so in writing by the Investor. One month's notice will be required. At the discretion of the Plan Manager, the Plan may be kept open with a nominal sum in order to ensure that outstanding tax credits may be claimed from the Inland Revenue for the Investor's benefit. (ii) The Plan Manager has absolute discretion in determining which shares/units are to be sold for partial withdrawals. (iii) The Plan Manager will not release assets until an original written authority has been received from the Investor. Photocopies and faxes are not normally acceptable. The Plan Manager will not normally accept instructions by telephone. (iv) Instructions received after 1 pm will not be actioned until the following business day. (v) Instructions to terminate the Plan after 1 pm on the penultimate business day of the Stock Exchange's account period will not be actioned until the first business day of the new account. Settlement to investors will normally take place on the appropriate settlement day for the new account. (vi) Equity investments will be sold at the closing bid price, quoted by TELEKURS, for the day of dealing. (vii) Unit trust investments will be sold at the ruling bid price quoted at the next valuation point for the trust, normally 10am the following business day. (viii) Termination of the Plan shall be without prejudice to the completion of transactions within the Plan which have already been initiated. A retention may be made by the Plan Manager to cover such liabilities. (ix) On death the Plan will cease. All investments held under the Plan will be retained (although without the tax benefits of the Plan) pending instructions from the personal representatives of the deceased. (x) The Investor must immediately notify the Plan Manager if he ceases to qualify under the Regulations when the Plan will, if appropriate, be terminated. The Plan Manager will notify the Investor and the Inland Revenue if it becomes aware that the Plan has or will become void by reason of any failure to comply with the Regulations (xi) The Plan Manager may terminate the Plan at any time withdrawals reduce the value of any plan below £1,000. (xii) The Plan Manager will give written notification to the Investor of any intention to cease to act as Plan Manager in order that the Investor can request that his Plan be transferred to another plan manager. (xiii) The Plan Manager reserves the right to pass on any expenses or costs incurred when transferring Plans between plan managers. (xiv) Any instructions from the Investor to the Plan Manager are to be in writing addressed to PEP Administration, INVESCO MIM Management Ltd., 11 Devonshire Square, London EC2M 4YR. All instructions will be acknowledged. Instructions not in accordance with these Terms and Conditions may be refused. The Plan Manager shall be entitled to rely on all instructions purporting to come from the Investor.

6. Cooling-Off Rights An individual will not have a right to withdraw his/her application within seven days of receipt by the Plan Manager (the "Cooling-Off Period") unless he/she invests on the personal recommendation of an independent financial adviser.

1991/92 TAXHAVEN APPLICATION FORM

Please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS and send to:
INVESCO MIM, FREEPOST, 11 Devonshire Square, London EC2B 2TT.

OFFICE USE ONLY
1. 100 110
2. 100 119
SOURCE
A00392

1. INVESTMENT DETAILS (Only one plan may be selected)
Please indicate your choice by ticking the relevant box. The minimum investment is £2,000 and the maximum is £6,352.50, which includes the Manager's initial charge of 5% plus VAT. Please make any cheque payable to INVESCO MIM Management Limited.

TaxHaven High Income (reinvested income). 1. ☐ or TaxHaven High Income (distributed income). 2. ☐

Please choose one of the following: Please tick
1) I wish to invest the proceeds of all share/unit sales and/or £ [ ] (please send a cheque for any cash investment). ☐
2) Please sell all my shares/units and invest the proceeds. ☐
3) Please sell all my shares/units and invest £ [ ] ☐

If you choose option 2 or 3, where the cash amount realised exceeds the required investment, the surplus will be returned to you. Where it is less than the required investment your Plan will be opened and you will be notified of the cash top-up requirement.

2. PERSONAL DETAILS
Title (Mr/Mrs/Ms/other)
Forenames
Surname
Permanent UK Address
(a "care of" address cannot be accepted)
Postcode
Telephone Number
Date of Birth / /
National Insurance Number*
or
Pension Number
Tax District and reference (if known)
*Inland Revenue PEP regulations mean that we cannot accept this application without your National Insurance or Pension number. Your National Insurance number can be found on your payslip, your tax return, your tax code notice or from your employer's personnel department.

3. PLEASE MAKE SURE you have enclosed your cheque made payable to INVESCO MIM Management Ltd., indicated the amount you wish to invest and completed all personal details including National Insurance/Pension Number

NOW PLEASE READ AND SIGN THE FOLLOWING DECLARATION

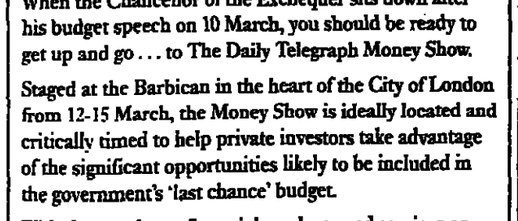
I apply for a TAXHAVEN Personal Equity Plan for the current tax year. I confirm that I have read and understood and agree to be bound by the Terms and Conditions. I declare that I am aged 18 or over, and I am resident and ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom ('UK') for tax purposes or non-resident but performing duties which by virtue of section 132 (4) (a) of the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988 are treated as being performed in the UK, and that I HAVE MADE NO OTHER APPLICATION TO SUBSCRIBE TO ANOTHER GENERAL PERSONAL EQUITY PLAN FOR THE TAX YEAR TO WHICH THIS APPLICATION RELATES. I authorise INVESCO MIM Management Ltd to hold my cash subscription, Plan investments, interest, distributions and any other rights or proceeds in respect of these investments and any other cash and to make on my behalf any claims for relief from tax in respect of my Plan investments to the Inland Revenue. I authorise INVESCO MIM Management Ltd., as Plan Manager on my written request to transfer or pay to me, as the case may be, Plan investments, interest, distributions, rights or other proceeds in respect of such investments or any cash if applicants wish to take advantage of the Share Link Trust Exchange, Plans will not be started until the proceeds of all share and /or unit sales have been received. Any cash sent together with the proceeds of any part disposals will be retained in a client bank account until all proceeds have been received. No interest will be paid on sum so held and accordingly you will not receive the benefit of the Client Money Rules governing payment of interest. Any interest arising on the client money account will be used by INVESCO MIM Management Ltd., to defray its expenses in operating the share and unit trust exchange for which no charge is made to you. I declare that the information given in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and that I will inform INVESCO MIM Management Ltd., without delay of any change in my circumstances affecting any of the information given on the form

Signature _____ Date _____

If you require an additional Application Form for your partner, please tick box. ☐

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PAYE serfs and City fat cats

From Mr Duncan Alexander

Sir, Many people must have been dismayed by the Lindsay Cook article "Golden device to avoid tax" (February 29) reporting that some employees are being paid in gold bars rather than cash to avoid National Insurance contributions.

At a time when many are suffering from the recession and our public services face considerable financial restraints, it seems a tragedy that we should see our leading accountancy firms actively promoting such schemes on the basis that their only duty of care is to their client, and that duty does not extend to safeguarding and protecting the interests of the country they live in.

It should perhaps come as no surprise to us PAYE serfs, if we soon find that we face a special surcharge on our income tax demand to cover the non-payment of tax from those City fat cats with their gold bars held in Hong Kong or America.

Yours faithfully,
DUNCAN ALEXANDER,
Gillridge,
Gillridge Lane,
London Road,
Crowborough,
East Sussex.

Freefone tax

From Mr Alan Schuster

Sir, A point about Revenue errors (Weekend Money, February 8 and 29) which has not been mentioned and which I find infuriating is that I have to bear the costs (out of my taxed income) of all communications with the Tax office. I have never managed to spend less than five minutes on the phone waiting for the person in Newcastle who is dealing with my affairs to answer, and then wasting more of my money while my file is found and examined. When a tax demand is received, a pre-paid envelope is included for the money to be sent to Bradford. There is no logical reason why the Revenue cannot provide a similar facility for dealing with their Inspectors' offices and since the telephone, as Dr James says, is usually the only practical way to sort out problems, why are there no Freefone or 0800 numbers provided?

Yours sincerely,
ALAN SCHUSTER,
1 Bouverie Gardens, Kenton,
Harrow, Middlesex.

Titled accounts

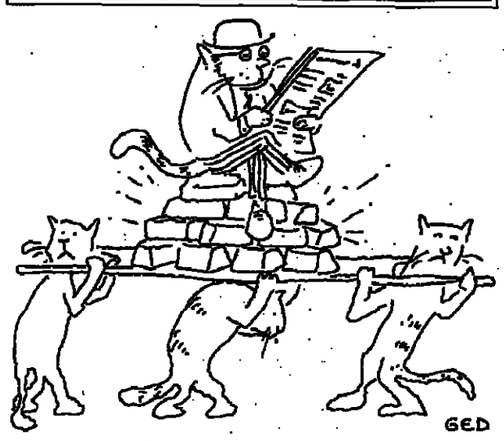
From Mr Gavin A. St Pier

Sir, Recently, upon opening a bank account, I received a cheque book and associated cards entitled simply G. A. St Pier. It took several letters to persuade the bank to amend this to "Gavin A. St. Pier Esq". I felt that this reintroduced a little civility to the anonymity of my cheque book, and at the same time, by clearly identifying my sex, reduced by 50 per cent the number of potential fraudsters in the event of the loss or theft of my cheque book or cards.

It is my experience that only NatWest, as a matter of routine, prefix your name with a title. Are the banks bad mannered, and why do they assist the cheque book and credit card frauds about which they complain so much?

Yours faithfully,
GAVIN A. ST PIER,
St Margaret's,
Upper St Jacques,
St Peter Port, Guernsey.

LETTERS



Lack of interest

From G. F. G Woodman

Liz Dolan writes (February 29) of Monique Allan who was paid just over 1 per cent interest for years by Barclays Bank on an "obsolete" seven-day deposit account until eventually her bank manager told her that a Capital Advantage Account would pay more.

At the branch I use in Morpeth, interest rates are displayed on a wall notice. I had opened a Capital Advantage Account in March 1989. Last month, I saw that this account was not included among the rates listed. A few yards away, in the same banking hall, the staff had this information on leaflets underneath the desk and out of sight of the public. You had to ask for it.

A new "Select" Account had been started on October 16, paying 1 per cent more. Three, rather than two, months' notice of withdrawal was required, but otherwise it is much the same as what I now think of as the Capital (dis)Advantage account.

It seems to me that Barclays is guilty of deceiving its customers by displaying a misleading and incomplete notice. Complaints to the bank have been unsuccessful. Like Ms Allan I was offered silly excuses and I, too, am writing to the Ombudsman.

Yours faithfully,
G. F. G. WOODMAN,
White Thorpe,
4 Upper Fenwick Grove,
Morpeth, Northumberland.

☐ Letters are welcomed, but *The Times* regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for advice or statements in these columns and independent professional advice should be sought.

Direct debits

From Mr Roger Morton

Sir, Lindsay Cook's article (February 22) drew attention to the growing pressure on customers, especially of public and private utilities, to accept payment by direct debit.

I accept that there can be benefits to all in such arrangements, but I do not think enough attention has been given to the convenience of customers.

It seems to be increasingly common for services to be unavailable, or terms for access to them to be significantly less advantageous, unless payment by direct debit is accepted. At the same time, the lead time between receipt of a bill and being debited is being brought down.

My own most recent experience is of Mercury Communications, which put the debit through 14 days after the date of its bill, which can be more like ten days from its receipt.

Given that I have holidays, apart from being absent from home for other reasons, this is unreasonable for what is an all too large but variable sum of money.

I suggest that the banks should require that variable direct debits are only implemented for organisations which give their customers at least three weeks' clear notice of the amount to be debited.

Yours faithfully,
ROGER MORTON,
Rose Cottage,
Kirk Ireton, Derby.

Individual voluntary arrangements

From Mr Philip Lee

Sir, I was interested to read your article on individual voluntary arrangements (February 15). I am an insolvency practitioner with some experience of IVAs, as I am putting together on average one set of proposals per week.

I would agree with your interviewee, Mr King, that, properly put together, proposals should stand a nine out of ten chance of being agreed by creditors.

Whilst I would concur entirely that creditors in an IVA should get a much better return than in a bankruptcy, my own experience has been that creditors are often willing to accept a much lower dividend than the 30 per cent quoted. I have found it is the debtor's conduct that is the determining factor in most cases.

A debtor who has suffered genuine misfortune will have a much better chance of getting his proposals agreed than, say, a debtor who has strung his creditors along for far too long, even if in the former case the dividend prospects are worse than in the latter.

To obtain approval to the proposals, agreement is needed of 75 per cent of the value of the debt of those represented at the creditors' meeting called to consider the proposals. In practice, therefore, a very small number of creditors (and value) may actually determine the debtor's fate.

No person in severe financial difficulties should believe that bankruptcy is inevitable — they should always consult an insolvency practitioner (listed in the *Yellow Pages*!) about the possibility of entering into an individual voluntary arrangement.

Yours sincerely,
PHILIP LEE,
Lee & Company,
Crown House,
Armley Road,
Leeds.

Calling BT

From Mr J. P. Chambers

Sir, Most of my telephone bills over the last few years have involved call charges sufficiently low that I enjoyed a low-user rebate. I recently took out BT Chargecards for my children, who are away from home but with no telephone accounts of their own, so that they can make and pay for telephone calls more conveniently. I have just received my first telephone bill including their Chargecard calls. Although I have used fewer than ten units in the quarter, the 100-plus units used by each of my children on their Chargecards have been counted in the total used to test my eligibility for the low-user rebate, which I have therefore lost.

There is nothing I can find in the publicity information for the Chargecard indicating this hidden cost of several pounds per quarter. The impression given is that Chargecard calls are simply appended to the telephone bill.

It seems that to avoid this hidden charge, I must find a compliant telephone account-holder, who is not a low user, and invite them to have my children's Chargecards on their bill. To minimise inconvenience I could have that bill sent to me so that I could pay it and then recover the separate components. Incidentally, on further enquiry I have discovered that any Chargecard calls are not included in the total when reckoning large-user rebates.

I feel that BT information about Chargecard should warn about this hidden cost.

Yours faithfully,
J. P. CHAMBERS,
24 Green Lane,
Tadworth, Surrey.

Independent advice

From Mr Simon Baggott

Sir, It was interesting to note that on the Letters Page of Weekend Money (February 8) there appeared both a letter from Mr Alan Hickman wondering where he might find truly impartial financial advice, and a letter from Mr Ian R. McNeil making comments about the virtues of chartered accountants in connection with the provision of independent financial advice.

May I respectfully suggest that there is in fact no better person to obtain independent financial advice from than a solicitor? It is true that not all solicitors will offer such advice, but many do, and those who do offer this service can easily be found.

Needless to say, solicitors are independent, and cannot but give truly impartial advice. Indeed, they have been giving such advice for several centuries. Like accountants, they are also obliged to notify their clients of any commission obtained, and are not permitted to retain any such commission without the client's written authority.

Moreover, solicitors are compulsorily covered by unlimited insurance and a compensation fund.

Finally, and perhaps most importantly, prior to qualification, solicitors are obliged to undergo a lengthy and demanding period of training and education, during which they acquire a considerable amount of knowledge regarding, *inter alia*, insurance, taxation, trusts, banking, contract, family law, company law, wills and succession. These are all areas of law which form a significant background to most forms of financial planning.

In the circumstances, I would respectfully suggest that if a solicitor is offering independent financial advice, such an offer should be seriously considered.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON D. BAGGOTT,
112 Chorley Road,
Sheffield,
South Yorkshire.

HURRY

APPLY BY 28th MARCH

If you don't act quickly your 1991/92 tax-free PEP allowance will be lost. Because applications from new investors for Save & Prosper's Personal Equity Plan for this tax-year have to be received by 28th March 1992.

A Save & Prosper PEP allows you to invest £6,000 (£12,000 for a couple) each tax-year in the stock market with all your investment returns tax-free. The tax exemption means that dividends are automatically increased by at least one third and you don't pay Capital Gains Tax on your profits – however big they are.

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Stock market investment has produced excellent returns for investors over the medium and long term. In fact £1,000 invested in Save & Prosper Managed Portfolio PEP on 1st January 1987 would have grown to £1,740 by 1st March 1992, including reinvested income. The same sum in an average high interest building society account would have grown to £1,470. (Source: Save & Prosper/Micropal)

CHOICE AND FLEXIBILITY

Save & Prosper has one of the most comprehensive and flexible plans available, which allows you to make full use of your current annual PEP allowance. You can choose from our Managed Portfolio PEP, Dealing Plan PEP or our Unit Trust PEP which is ideal for sums up to £3,000.

WHY CHOOSE SAVE & PROSPER

Save & Prosper is part of Flemings, who manage £27 billion worldwide. We have over 50 years' experience of successful money management on the world's stock markets and are one of the leaders in the Personal Equity Plan market with over 65,000 customers. Our Managed Portfolio PEP is one of the top performing PEPs of its type. (Source: The WM Company)

WHY NOW?

Remember, in order to use your 1991/92 annual PEP allowance you must invest by 28th March. Remember too, the Labour Party have said that were they to form the next Government, they would effectively raise the combined higher-rate of tax on earned income and investment income to 59%. So existing tax-free savings could be worth more than ever.

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Address ____

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One of our Investor Services staff may telephone to ask if you would like further information.

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Portfolio PLATINUM

For readers who may have missed a copy of *The Times* this week, we repeat below the week's *Portfolio* price changes (today's are on page 29).

No	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat	Weekly Total
1	+6	+3	+4	+5	+5		
2	+7	+1	+6	+2	+4		
3	+5	+3	+4	+5	+5		
4	+5	+3	+5	+6	+5		
5	+4	+3	+4	+3	+5		
6	+6	+1	+7	+3	+3		
7	+6	+5	+4	+3	+4		
8	+5	+2	+3	+7	+5		
9	+5	+3	+3	+4	+5		
10	+4	+4	+2	+3	+4		
11	+4	+5	+2	+4	+3		
12	+6	+2	+3	+4	+3		
13	+3	+4	+2	+3	+3		
14	+6	+1	+5	+3	+3		
15	+6	+2	+4	+5	+5		
16	+5	+2	+3	+3	+4		
17	+6	+3	+3	+6	+7		
18	+6	+3	+5	+4	+4		
19	+7	+2	+7	+2	+4		
20	+6	+2	+3	+7	+4		
21	+5	+4	+4	+3	+3		
22	+7	+2	+6	+2	+2		
23	+5	+7	+2	+3	+3		
24	+7	+1	+5	+1	+3		
25	+5	+2	+5	+6	+5		
26	+6	+4	+4	+4	+4		
27	+4	+6	+2	+3	+2		
28	+9	+2	+6	+2	+3		
29	+7	+1	+5	+5	+6		
30	+9	+1	+5	+2	+3		
31	+5	+3	+5	+5	+3		
32	+8	+1	+7	+1	+2		
33	+3	+5	+3	+3	+3		
34	+5	+2	+4	+5	+5		
35	+7	+2	+3	+7	+6		
36	+4	+5	+2	+2	+2		
37	+9	+1	+5	+2	+2		
38	+4	+4	+2	+4	+4		
39	+5	+2	+3	+5	+3		
40	+3	+4	+2	+2	+3		
41	+7	+1	+4	+6	+6		
42	+4	+4	+5	+3	+4		
43	+4	+5	+3	+3	+2		
44	+8	+1	+6	+3	+4		

PERSONAL PENSIONS

43% more pension fund for the same money.

Someone retiring on 1st March 1991 would have been 43% better off with The Equitable Life than with the worst performer among our competitors, according to 'Planned Savings' most recent* survey of 20 year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans.

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*Planned Savings June 1991.

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The Equitable Life

Before you look to your future, look to our past.

هكذا من الأصل

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Quiet end to account

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began February 24. Dealings ended yesterday. §Contango day March 9. Settlement day March 16. §Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Portfolio PLATINUM

From your Portfolio Platinum card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add these prices to your running total for the week and check this against the weekly dividend figure on this page. If it matches this figure, you have won outright or a share of the total weekly prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. You must always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No	Company	Group	Gain or loss
1	Abbey	Building,Rds	
2	Davnprt Vern	Motors,Air	
3	Bowthorpe	Electrical	
4	ASW	Industrial	
5	Steetley	Building,Rds	
6	MTM	Chems,Plas	
7	Airtours	Leisure	
8	TV-am	Leisure	
9	Ropner	Industrial	
10	BSS Group	Industrial	
11	Manders	Building,Rds	
12	Marley	Building,Rds	
13	Grampian	Leisure	
14	McAlpine (A)	Building,Rds	
15	Chesterfield	Property	
16	Ocean Wilson	Transport	
17	Powell Duffryn	Transport	
18	Dawson	Textiles	
19	Welsh Water	Water	
20	Dunhill	Drapery,Strs	
21	Guinness	Breweries	
22	Fairey Group	Industrials	
23	NFC	Transport	
24	Bradford	Property	
25	Castle Comm	Leisure	
26	St Ives Gp	Paper,Print,Ad	
27	First Tech	Electrical	
28	Weir	Industrial	
29	News Corp	Newspapr,Pub	
30	Hunting	Industrial	
31	Titon	Industrial	
32	Wolseley	Industrial	
33	Low & Bonnar	Industrial	
34	Thornton (GW)	Industrial	
35	Holders Tech	Industrial	
36	Morland	Breweries	
37	Trafalgar H	Industrial	
38	Unilever	Industrial	
39	Rolls-Royce	Motors,Aircraft	
40	SA Breweries	Breweries	
41	Hanson	Industrial	
42	Sthn Bus	Industrial	
43	P & O Dfd	Transport	
44	Diploma	Industrial	
	© Times Newspapers Ltd.	Total	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend

Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in today's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	Weekly Total

Three readers shared the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. John Harrison, of Bedford, Alan Braithwaite, of Leeds, and Richard Bunting, of Matlock, Derbyshire, each received £2,000.

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
311	211	Abbey Nat	293	+7	10.5	4.9	9.0
185	126	Allied Irish	171	...	...	5.4	12.5
60	23	Ansbacher (H)	31	...	1.5	6.5	...
199½	119½	Aus New Z	179	...	...	4.9	13.6
2631	1218	Bankamerica	2562 †	-28	...	...	...
173½	115½	Bk of Ireland	151	-1	...	7.0	24.7
1950	1900	Bk Leumi Isrl	1900 #	...	...	...	...
350	340	Bk Leumi UK	340	...	16.0	6.5	...
126	91	Bank Scotland	111	-1	...	5.1	24.2
489	327	Barclays	370	+3	21.1	7.9	61.9
12	3	Benchmark	4½	...	...	...	17.9
270	170	Brown Shipley	170	...	8.0	6.3	...
27	12½	Carlisle	16½	...	...	...	...
464	295	Cater Allen	340	...	25.0	9.8	...
78	52	Cattles	72	...	3.8	7.0	14.2
1431	531	Chase Manh	1300 †	-25	...	...	...
1037	462	Citicorp	962 †	-18	...	...	...
270	225	Close Bros	261	...	8.8	4.5	12.5
9375	1500	Commerzbk	9250	-75	...	0.7	...
£255½	£191½	Deutsche Bk	£253	-262	...	2.1	...
213	25	First Nat Fin	51	+1	...	...	...
355	230	Gerrard Nat	266	-1	20.5	10.3	...
321	174	HSBC	318	-3	...	3.6	...
302	204	Hambros	275	-1	12.8	6.2	10.9
413	323	Joseph (L)	328	...	15.8	6.4	...
153	84	King Shaxson	84	-1	10.2	16.3	...
377	233	Kleinwort Ben	269	+1	16.0	8.3	∞
427½	268	Lloyds	415 †	-4	16.7	5.4	15.4
63	44	Lon Scot Bk	49	-1	2.7	7.5	10.3
281	150	Midland	263	...	3.4	1.7	∞
363	207	Nat Aust Bk	328	+1	...	5.9	12.1
357½	246	Nat West	318	-1	17.5	7.6	∞
512	390	Prov Inst	474 †	-1	25.0	7.0	∞
46	24	Rea Bros	29	...	0.5	2.3	18.5
211	144	Ryl Bk Scot	177	...	8.8	6.6	48.2
1143	640	Schroders	1094	+2	14.0	1.7	21.8
462	205	Stand Chart	441	+1	20.0	...	38.8
165	111	TSB	130½	-1½	6.4	6.5	...
600	125	Union Disc	157 †	...	13.5	11.5	...
593	314	Warburg SG	546	+2	16.0	3.9	11.4
202	109	-do- 6% 'A'	182 †	...	...	4.4	...
5800	2506	Wells Fargo	3762	-93	...	6.3	...
224	128	Westpac	169	-3	...	7.0	13.0
353	223	Wintrust	223 †	...	9.3	5.6	6.6

BREWERIES

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
712	460	Allied-Lyons	645	+2	18.8	3.9	15.3
581	441	Bass	542	-6	...	4.4	11.8
189	124	Boddingtons	188	...	6.0	4.3	13.6
291	173	Bulmer (HP)	270	...	8.3	4.1	15.2
143	98	Burtonwd Brw	128	...	4.2	4.4	7.4
245	135	Devenish (JA)	230	...	6.2	3.6	16.4
120	83	Eldridge P 'A'	99	-4	2.6	3.5	22.7
88	51	Fosters Brewing	85	-1	...	1.3	19.1
450	360	Fullr Sm 'A'	425	...	6.1	1.9	17.2
268	127	Gibbs Mew	145 †	...	6.7	6.2	19.7
963	623	Grand Met	896	-3	22.7	3.4	14.4
411	274	Greenalls Grp	394	...	11.0	3.7	12.3
504	374	Greene King	503	...	10.8	2.9	13.0
599	358½	Guinness	588	+5	...	2.1	17.8
1435	873	Hardy Hansn	1413	+20	37.5	3.5	14.8
255	135	Heavitree	145	...	3.0	2.8	∞
195	95	-do- 'A' LV	105	...	...	3.9	13.1
308	225	Highland Dist	296	...	5.5	2.5	19.7
278	136	Invergordn Dist	272	...	...	3.2	19.3
551	420	Mansfield	550	-1	12.1	2.9	13.3
236	175	Marstn Thmp	209	-2	4.4	2.8	17.0
443	357	Matthew Clark	420	...	14.0	4.4	15.6
434	340½	Mrydwn W	380	...	...	2.2	18.8
365	231	Morland	350	+6	7.1	2.7	15.8
14	6½	Paramount	6½	...	...	...	7.0
1110	557	SA Breweries	838	+5	...	2.8	16.9
453	336	Scot & New	452	+1	15.0	4.4	13.0
254	174	Vaux Group	193	-1	9.2	6.4	13.1
516	399	Whitbread 'A'	430	-8	16.3	5.1	11.2
1430	1310	-do- 'B'	1410	+2	16.3	1.5	32.2
598	390	Wolvrhmptn D	597	...	10.3	2.3	16.8
503	389	Young 'A'	500	...	13.0	3.5	17.6

BUILDING, ROADS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
80	40	Abbey	65	+2	...	...	...
41	9	Albrighton	19½	...	...	...	...
142	86	Allen	123	...	4.9	5.3	8.9
260	131	Amec	136	...	...	9.9	7.8
74	16	Anglia Sec	16	...	...	...	...
195	77	Ashtead	148 †	+2	4.1	3.7	19.6
247	95	Atwoods	150	-2	...	4.6	12.7
245½	120	BPB Ind	150	...	...	10.0	16.4
106	69	Baggeridge Brk	91	+2	3.1	4.6	22.0
50	21	Bailey (Ben) Con	25	...	0.8	4.3	13.1
126	29	Barratt Devs	62	...	3.2	6.9	...
195	59	Beazer	120	...	4.0	4.4	∞
280	192	Bellway	280	...	11.0	5.2	20.3
190	22	Bellwinch	22	...	...	...	...
351	211½	Berkeley Gp	295	...	...	2.0	...
153	98	Bett Bros	100	...	4.2	5.6	...
122	77	Blockleys	78	-1	4.8	8.2	8.5
286	198	Blue Circle	258	-3	11.2	5.8	14.5
758	438	Boot (Henry)	758	...	25.0	4.4	9.8
111	69	Bowdon PLC	89	-2	4.6	6.9	9.2
146	93	Br Dredging	127	-1	7.4	7.8	13.4
120	75	Bryant	97 †	...	4.8	6.6	40.7
105	51	CALA	54	...	3.4	8.4	...
269	187	CRH	229	...	...	1.8	∞
80	33	Calebread Rby	45	...	3.0	...	13.8
57	8	Condor Grp	20	...	0.3	2.0	...
223	43	Costain	65	-1	...	25.1	...
150½	69	Countryside	106 †	+2	...	5.2	13.7
133	30	Crest Nicholson	47 †	+2	0.0	...	...
110	53	Cussins	53	...	...	9.4	...
12	1½	Dunton	4½	...	...	...	...
47½	29	Edmond Hldgs	38	...	1.8	6.5	9.1
180	105	Epwin	180	...	6.4	4.7	11.7
77	49	Erith	51	...	3.9	10.2	14.9
266	210	Eve Group	220	...	9.2	5.6	8.6
117	59½	Evered Bardon	75	...	5.0	9.9	12.9
26½	13½	Exploration	17½	-½	...	...	...
5½	2	Finlan Gp	3	...	...	...	...
233	68	Freeman Gp	97	-4	8.3	11.7	5.0
104	69	Galliford	70	+1	4.3	8.3	10.7
90	80	Gibbs & Dandy	87	...	...	...	...
923	583	Gleeson (MJ)	923	+3	11.8	1.7	12.6
110	18	Graham Wood	18	...	5.5	...	1.0
100½	64	Hewden-Stuart	93	+1	3.0	4.3	14.3
86	45	Hewetson	55 †	...	...	10.9	7.9
25	18	Hey & Croft	22	+2	...	...	...
396	229	Heywd Wim	337	+1	12.5	5.1	∞
360	80	Higgs & Hill	95	-1	20.0	28.1	12.2
41	26	How Gp	28	...	3.6	...	6.8
21	13	Howard Hldgs	13½	...	0.5	4.9	8.1
124	60	Ibstock Johnsen	73	-2	...	11.0	26.3
90	37	Jarvis	37	...	2.0	...	33.6
347	155	Laing (J)	163	-1	13.0	10.6	5.8
64	21	Lawrence (W)	48	+2	4.5	12.5	46.4
61	27	Lilley	33½	+½	2.5	10.0	7.3
155	112	Ln Clydeside	112	...	7.0	8.3	8.4
205	13	Lovell (YJ)	24	...	2.2	12.2	∞
203	133	Manders	198	+5	7.0	4.7	14.1
137	87	Marley	117	+5	6.3	7.2	49.2
108	74	Marshalls	90	...	5.0	7.4	28.6
153	80	Maunders (J)	153	...	4.9	4.3	15.0
308	182	McAlpine (A)	213	+3	10.3	6.6	∞
114½	37½	McCarthy & S	66	...	...	2.0	...
494	352	Meyer Int	413	-1	16.5	5.3	20.0
17	7	Mixlon Gp	7	...	...	...	...
356	114	Mowlem (J)	126	...	...	22.2	9.9
44	2½	NSM	3¼	...	0.5	...	...
177	112	Newman Tnks	148	...	9.3	8.4	18.6
304	187	Persimmon	287	-1	...	4.0	14.2
55	16	Phoenix Timber	32	+2	0.5	...	...
1250	875	Rochins	1250	...	24.0	2.6	9.2
201	138	Prowting	145	...	5.0	4.6	29.8
46	10	Quiligotti	14	...	1.5	...	...
749	491	RMC Gp	580	-5	19.3	4.4	13.4
150	93	Raine Ind	109	...	6.0	7.4	10.8
76	50	Ransom	66	...	0.1	0.2	...
658	416	Redland	447	-1	...	7.5	12.9
79	61	Rentokil	64	...	4.3	9.0	8.8
214	135	Rugby Group	207	+2	6.4	4.2	15.3
62	23	Sandell	30	...	1.7	...	...
68	36	[illegible]	36	...	3.0	11.1	5.2
98	70	Sharpe & Fisher	91	...	4.0	5.9	...
161	76	Sheffield Ind	78	...	5.4	9.2	7.4
110	53	Shell Hldgs	55	...	1.5	3.8	15.5
149	62	[illegible]	70	...	5.2	9.9	7.4
231	161	Smart (J)	231	...	7.9	4.6	7.9
22	12½	[illegible]	12½	...	...	3.0	27.9
424	252	Steetley	380	+3	14.0	4.9	19.6
283	95	Tarmac	115	-1	11.3	13.0	13.0
175	106	Tay Homes	155	...	5.3	4.6	6.2
289	105	Taylor Woodrw	140	...	9.5	11.5	10.4
725	508	Tilbury Dougls	540	...	33.0	8.1	8.0
41	28	Tower Hire	31	...	0.4	1.7	...
251	175	Travis Perkins	212	...	8.0	5.0	27.3
62	39	Try Group	55	...	6.0	14.5	6.0
33	22	Tudor	31	-2	2.7	...	8.7
150	16	Turriff	27 #	...	4.2	20.9	...
10	3	Western Plant	8	...	...	...	...
123	66	Vibroplant	100	...	3.6	4.8	14.0
208	69	Ward Group	69	-2	7.2	...	3.0
100	40	Ward Hldgs	43	...	0.5	1.6	...
428	368	Watts Blake	405	...	9.3	3.1	15.6
44	15	Westbury	15	...	...	...	...
190	97	Westbury	100	-1	...	12.0	...
52	9	West Scotland	15	...	...	...	...
62	6	Wiggins	8	...	...	...	...
449	335½	Wilson Bowden	448	...	...	2.5	15.4
211	159	Wilson (C)	202	-1	3.7	2.5	18.2
229	108	Wimpey (G)	137	+2	10.5	10.2	20.9
78	43	YRM	67 †	-2	5.0	10.0	7.0

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
233	120	Allied Colloids	211	+½	3.5	2.2	20.3
481	301	Amersham	451	-3	11.8	3.5	22.6
41½	25	Anglo Utd	25½	...	...	8.4	...
247	144½	BTP	228	...	...	5.2	13.9
£106½	7281	Bayer DM50	£102¾	-125	...	4.7	9.3
224	129	Blagden	205	+2	9.5	6.2	11.4
160½	115	Brent Chems	126	...	...	7.8	13.9
128	42	Coral Gp	92	...	...	3.4	...
171	94	Canning (W)	149	...	...	7.2	6.5 17.9
203	142	Cookson?	159	-1	11.0	...	12.6
218	165	Ellis & Everard	192	...	7.0	4.9	14.7
18	10	Evode Colour	10	...	0.6	8.7	34.4
124	43	Evode	65	...	3.5	7.3	...
396	202	Halstead (J)	396	+30	11.2	3.8	11.0
207	95	Hickson	197	...	8.0	5.4	18.9
9325	6793	Hoechst	8925	...	...	6.9	...
1381	845	ICI	1327	+31	55.0	5.7	20.2
631	435	Laporte	598	-6	17.8	4.0	14.4
351	234	Leigh	297	...	7.6	3.4	17.8
290	136	MTM	189	+1	5.1	3.6	11.2
1818	1162	Norsk Hydro	1287	...	...	2.5	∞
400	312	Pearson Zoch	398	-2	10.4	3.5	12.2
395	308	-do- 'A'	393	...	10.4	3.5	12.0
368	111	Plysu	260	...	4.5	2.3	20.8
138½	70½	Porvair	130	...	...	3.4	12.5
417	203	Rentokil	380	+1	3.3	1.2	31.1
17	6½	Smith? Speak	6½	...	...	...	...
364	204	Wardle Storeys	345	+7	16.0	6.2	16.0
20	10	Wassall?	10	...	0.1	1.3	...
300	215	Wolstenholme R	298	...	...	7.3	13.1
652	327	Yorks Chem	626 †	...	14.5	3.1	16.2
242	89	Yule Catto	236	...	4.7	2.7	15.5

DRAPERY, STORES

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
142	20	Alan Paul	20 #	...	...	22.7	1.4
445	287	Alexon	381	+1	...	6.1	7.9
129	58½	Amber Day	79	...	2.7	4.6	10.9
339	239	Argos Plc	277	...	6.0	2.9	18.2
106	52	Ashley (Laura)	94	...	0.1	0.1	...
338	250	Asprey	258	...	4.8	2.5	14.3
385	295	Austin Reed	297	...	9.5	4.3	47.7
150	125	Beattie (J) 'A'	148	+1	5.5	5.0	12.4
195	133	Bentalls	133	-2	3.8	3.9	27.6
265	73	Betterware	255	...	...	1.2	28.7
136	36	Blacks Leis	100	...	...	4.3	9.1
371	178	Body Shop	367	+5	1.2	0.4	49.3
38½	2½	Bowes & Jackson	6	-½	1.9	...	1.4
289	183	Brown (N)	270	...	...	2.8	18.6
94½	30	Burton	38	-1½	2.7	9.5	56.4
188	113	Casuals 'A'	153	...	4.0	3.5	18.2
355	275	Church	298	...	12.5	5.6	14.6
195	99	Coats Viyella	194	...	7.0	4.8	22.5
165	95	Colorvision	102	+1	...	7.3	9.1
336	154	Courts Furnish	320 †	...	5.0	2.1	18.0
250	82	Crown Eyes	250	...	3.5	1.9	13.9
92	65½	Daisy Fashion Intl	80	...	...	3.2	15.3
37	17½	Dewhirst (I)	28	...	...	3.0	12.8
274	125	Dixons Gp	236	+1	5.8	3.3	24.9
520	283	Dunhill	463	+4	7.0	2.0	16.8
37	11	ERA Gp	28	...	...	...	12.3
800	695	Ely (Wimbldn)	755	...	16.0	2.8	5.4
248	87	Etam	233	-3	5.8	3.3	24.3
19	9½	Fields (Mrc)	10 #	...	...	...	...
389	212	Fine Art Dev	388	...	9.8	3.4	16.1
95	60	Ford Sth Tiles	79	...	4.0	6.8	15.2
454	338	Forminster	453	...	11.7	3.5	9.1
67½	13	French Conn	16	...	2.7	...	17.9
87	38	Gabicci	64	+1	4.2	8.9	7.4
76	41	Gent SR	42	...	2.0	6.3	37.6
59	24	Goldsmiths Gp	26	...	3.0	15.4	4.8
2000	1350	GUS	1950	...	37.5	2.6	17.1
1564	1048	-do- 'A'	1528	-10	37.5	3.3	13.4
63	20	Hampdn Hse	52	...	2.0	5.3	∞
308	147	Hardome	269	-5	...	2.4	20.7
29½	12	Helene Plc	21	...	2.0	12.8	5.7
36	16	Hoffnung?	28	...	...	...	...
216	83	Hogg Robinson	215	...	5.5	3.4	21.9
19	11	Hollas	14	...	1.2	11.4	26.2
50	20	Honeysuckle	50	...	1.0	2.7	28.0
130	90	House of Lerose	135	...	10.3	10.2	13.4
208	30	Jacques Vert	90	...	10.0	...	4.1
582	359	Kingfisher	521	-5	12.2	3.1	15.7
86	57½	Lewis Wine Gp	70 †	...	4.0	7.6	∞
665	410	Liberty	665	...	6.9	1.4	25.6
350	163	Lloyds Chem	343	+9	4.1	1.6	16.4
325	213½	Marks Spencer	312½	-3½	6.7	2.9	20.2
467	294	Menzies (John)	392	...	9.4	3.2	15.1
135	113	Moss Bros	116	...	5.0	5.7	25.6
71	11½	Next	67½	...	0.7	...	...
126½	60	Oliver (G)	60	...	...	2.4	9.0
171	101	Pentos	139	+1	2.7	2.7	∞
119	72	Pepe Group	87 †	...	4.0	...	7.5
247	135	QS Hldgs	225	...	4.3	2.6	19.1
191	16½	Ratners Group	18	...	...	17.8	0.7
161	99	S & U Stores	160	...	8.0	6.7	7.4
748	330	Sherwood Gp	745	...	9.1	1.6	15.5
107	71	Sears	103	+1	5.3	6.9	37.3
490	301	Smith WH 'A'	465	+2	12.5	3.6	16.4
41	13	Specialeyes	27	...	...	...	24.0
126	83	Storehouse	110	+2	5.0	6.1	...
235	141	T & S Stores	221	...	5.0	3.0	15.1
33	18	Tie Rack	27½	...	...	2.4	...
166	109	Time Products	149	+1	7.2	6.5	16.5
79	32	Usher (Frank)	76	...	4.0	7.2	9.3
65	24	Vivat	25	...	0.5	2.7	3.8
78	55	Wassall?	63	...	3.5	7.4	9.8
86	27	Wickes	77	...	...	...	...
51	15	Wld of Leather	40	...	...	...	...
205	121	Wyevale	178	-2	3.3	2.5	16.7
9	5	Xtra-vision	5	...	...	...	...

ELECTRICALS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
151	67	AB Elect	68	...	0.1	0.2	...
180	73	ACT Group	179	...	...	2.8	17.2
203	168	Acal	198	...	5.4	3.6	11.3
16	6	Acorn Comp	6½	...	...	...	7.5
345	220	Admiral	312	+2	4.8	2.1	∞
120	63	Alba	116	...	4.3	5.0	17.6
240	22½	Alphameric	24	...	...	...	...
93	22	Amstrad	32 †	...	1.4	5.8	8.6
167½	50	App Holo	133	+3	...	...	...
36	11	Arlen	15	...	0.5	4.4	...
30	8	Astec	18½	...	...	...	18.9
270	101	Auto Sec	132	-1	4.9	4.9	5.4
272	161½	Bowthorpe?	258	...	...	4.8	12.6
29½	10	Bennett & Fount	15	+½	...	...	10.2
475	294	BICC	324	+2	19.2	8.3	14.6
339	154	Blick	330	-1	8.0	3.2	15.4
4575	1460	Borland	3975	-163	...	...	...
240	175	Bowthorpe	238	+1	5.7	3.2	16.1
425½	268	BT	334	-2	13.3	5.3	9.7
125½	104½	BT New	120½	-1½	13.3	5.1	10.1
14½	7	Bulgin (AB) 'A'	8	...	0.1	1.7	39.2
202	136	Bunzlit?	182	+19	5.7	4.3	∞
632	429	Cable Wireless	601	-1	11.8	2.6	18.5
22	5½	Chloride	10½	-½	...	...	...
303	131	CML Micro	240	...	2.9	1.6	13.6
194	90	Comp People	90	...	6.2	9.2	10.3
18	10	Cambridge?	16	...	...	...	...
81	46	Cray Elect	67	...	...	...	...
456	276	Delta	456	+1	14.0	4.1	14.7
164	135	Denmans El	153	...	5.8	5.1	8.5
425	161½	Domino	409 †	-1	6.2	2.0	∞
69	49	Dowding Mills	64	+½	2.4	5.0	15.4
860	460	Dowty?	860	...	...	1.4	22.1
288	193	Electrocomps	268	+1	6.6	3.3	16.5
520	72	El Data Prc	425 †	+7	4.2	1.3	13.6
41	17	Electron House	38	...	2.2	7.9	16.2
54	13	Emess	17	+½	3.5	...	...
338	181	Eurotherm	338	+2	7.2	2.8	25.7
78	35	FKI	60	...	3.3	...	16.0
269	156	Farnell Elect	269	+1	5.5	2.7	16.4
36	14	Feedback	23	...	0.5	2.9	15.9
19	4½	Ferranti	5	...	...	...	...
89	19	First Tech	39	+5	1.0	...	...
82	41	Forward Gp	71	...	2.2	4.1	10.7
27½	10	Forward Tech	16	...	...	...	...
223	166	GEC	214	-3½	9.2	5.8	11.5
230	132	Granby?	222	...	10.9	6.5	14.1
713	145	Harland Simon	145	-2	7.5	6.9	3.3
70	48	Hikane?	50	...	0.5	1.3	9.6
415	345	Hodgson Gp	413	+1	2.4	0.8	40.1
113	50	INSTEM	93	-2	4.2	6.2	∞
230	120	Jones Stroud	230 †	+20	8.0	4.6	14.7
29	15	Kenbay?	16	...	0.3	3.1	6.1
319	135	Kewill Sys	156	...	5.0	4.9	4.2
143	102	Kode	102	...	7.5	...	...
35	17	Laser-Scan	18	-1	...	...	3.8
79	42	LBMS	52	...	0.4	...	...
330	253	Lec Refrig	305	-1	14.5	6.3	25.2
170	84	Life Sciences	168	-2	3.3	2.7	∞
244	144	Logica	188	...	3.5	2.5	35.8
63	41	LPA Ind	47	...	3.5	10.0	12.8
450	223	Macro 4	445	...	11.0	3.3	17.2
64	35	Magnetic Mat	52½	...	3.0	7.6	24.6
365	193	Memrec Sw	363	...	7.3	2.7	14.7
303	116	Microfilm Rep	190	...	3.6	2.5	17.9
2378	711	Micro Focus	2323	-10	...	...	32.5
161	93	Microlec?	103	...	4.1	5.4	11.1
197	119	Microgen	147	...	7.0	6.3	∞
27	10	Microvitec	24½	-½	...	...	...
226	62	Mitel?	226	+1	5.6	3.3	13.8
107	34	Mitel	94	...	...	...	...
98	75	MMT Comp	94	...	3.2	4.5	15.5
120	66	Molynx	87	...	...	6.1	7.3
297	118	MTL Inst	295	+2	3.4	1.5	∞
93	48	Muirhead Elec	91	...	2.0	2.9	13.4
88	45	Murray Enter	88	...	...	...	...
4675	3900	NYNEX	4187	-37	...	...	...
75	40	Newmark (L)	40	-5	...	...	...
48	25	Norbain	36	...	0.7	2.6	9.1
81	37	Northamber	40	...	2.5	8.3	...
18	10	Oceonics	16	...	...	...	15.1

(continued)

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
279	205	Oxford Inst	242	...	4.1	2.3	15.7
105	85	P-E Internl	85	...	6.2	9.7	6.7
147	39	P & P	41	...	4.3	15.1	13.6
71	43	Peek	56	+1	3.4	8.1	13.6
201	145	Pegasus	159	...	12.1	10.1	7.3
8650	6300	Philips Fn 4%	8650	...	...	6.6	...
1978	587	-do- Lnsp nv	1162	...	...	...	...
365	227	Pilko	328	+15	7.7	3.2	14.7
357	194	-do- 'A' Voting	305	+14	7.7	3.4	13.6
71	48	Plasmec	51	...	3.6	...	47.0
111	65	Pressac	78	...	2.4	4.1	12.5
180	40	Psion	129	-4	2.4	2.5	...
60	45	Racal Elect	57½	-½	...	2.3	6.2
58	25	Radius	30	+3	2.7	12.8	∞
123	45	Real Time	83	...	3.0	4.8	8.7
53	10	Riva	10	-1	...	...	5.6
450	180	Sage Gp	445	...	8.0	2.4	17.1
90	41	Scantronic	45	...	2.9	8.8	45.0
195	78	Scholes Grp	121	...	5.0	5.5	13.2
499	179	Sema Gp	238	-1	2.6	1.5	∞
205	85	Sherwd Cmpt	195	...	5.2	3.6	9.7
42	30	Soundtracks	40	...	2.2	7.3	10.4
21	7	Sunleigh Elect	9	...	...	...	...
2850	1550	TDK	1981	...	...	1.0	17.0
8	5	TDS Circuits	6	...	...	...	...
44½	15½	Telemetrix	40½	...	0.6	2.0	17.5
849	608	THORN EMI	806	+21	...	5.0	16.8
45	10	Total Systems	38	...	...	2.6	...
225	102	Tunstall	225	...	3.3	3.2	13.3
306	152	Unitech	200	-3	11.7	...	34.1
62	29	Utd Scientific	52	...	2.2	5.6	17.4
18	8½	Vitec?	14½	...	0.2	1.8	10.0
414	251	Vodafone	358	-7	...	2.0	19.9
330	221	Volex	330	+3	17.0	6.9	38.4
27	10	Western Selectn	11	...	...	...	...
40	11	Whartdale?	21	...	...	...	...
395	260	Wholesale Ftgs	268	...	16.6	8.3	19.9

ELECTRICITY

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
295	212	East Midlands	260	-6	...	6.1	7.4
271	204½	Eastern Elec	252	-4	...	6.0	9.3
124½	99½	Hydro-Elec	105½	+½	...	5.0	13.0
295	206	London Elec	280	-6	...	5.7	8.1
344	230½	Manweb	319	-7	...	5.5	8.6
295	206	Midlands Elec	273	-4	...	5.8	8.1
295	213	Northern Elec	275	-5	...	6.3	6.4
311	219	Norweb	296	-5	...	5.7	11.0
119½	95	Scottish Power	103	...	...	5.0	13.4
295	204	Seeboard	272	-6	...	5.8	7.2
300	224	Sth Wales	318	-3	...	5.8	8.3
303	209	Sth Western	271	-8	...	5.9	8.2
290	208½	Southern Elec	273	-3	...	5.6	8.6
334	227	Yorkshire Elec	321	-2	...	5.3	9.2
£2945	£1425	Package Unit	£2800	-4800	...	...	...
245	185	National Powr	221	-2	...	5.0	8.1
254	187	PowerGen	233	-3	...	4.7	8.4

FINANCE, LAND

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
48	25	Aitken Hume	42	...	1.0	3.2	11.7
23	11	Atlantic Secs	11 #	...	...	...	...
54	37	BWD	52	...	1.7	4.5	14.1
148	87	Baltic Plc	97	+2	4.1	5.7	4.7
168	118	Berkeley Govett	126	-1	...	10.3	∞
18½	5	Burns-Anderson	5½	...	...	...	...
378	315	Caledonia	334	...	13.5	5.4	14.0
2100	1700	Camellia	1700	...	25.0	2.0	14.0
293	203	Candover	205	...	8.5	5.5	19.5
168	103	Fleming?	149	-4	1.5	1.3	14.7
19	8½	IFICO	8½#	...	...	...	...
135	53	Ivory Sime	132	...	5.7	5.8	16.1
12	5	LIT	5½	...	...	...	...
362	128	Lightship	152	+2	16.5	...	...
154	86	Lon Forfaiting	148	-1	7.6	7.1	∞
180	41	Marmadn	101	...	4.0	5.3	21.2
157	3	Nat Home Loan	3½	...	3.7	...	...
34	21	Newmarket	27	...	...	...	...
413	141	Rathbone Bros	358	...	8.0	3.0	16.6
22	9	Rutland Tst	11	...	0.8	9.7	6.6
85	28	Silverminds?	30	+1	...	16.6	9.2
56	33	Singer & Fried	45	+1	2.5	7.7	∞
875	538	Sotheby's	850	...	...	4.0	...
86	58	SIP Capital	85	...	3.0	4.7	13.2
320	168	Templtn Gloth	317	...	...	3.8	∞

FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1787	968	Amer Express	1243 †	+3	...	...	...
262	190	Electra	191	-1	6.4	4.5	25.9
710	535	Henderson Ad	680	...	37.5	7.4	13.9
111	58	Invesco MIM	72	...	6.0	11.1	17.2
158	90	Jardine Strat	158	...	...	1.4	7.1
127	87	MAI	112	...	5.6	6.5	9.0
365½	181½	MAM	359	...	...	3.7	13.6
605	355	M & G	604	...	19.0	4.2	16.7
145	88	Smith New Ct	98	+1	3.5	4.8	10.0
65	27	Sterling Tst	59	...	...	9.0	5.4

FOODS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
545	421	AB Food	426	-4	...	4.1	8.7
123	26	ASDA Group	37½	-½	2.1	7.5	9.1
135	57	Albert Fisher	65	+1	3.7	7.7	6.3
338	234½	Argyll	331	-1	...	3.5	15.1
119	32	Ashley Group	47	-½	1.9	5.5	6.4
150	112	Assoc Fisheries	142	...	7.0	6.6	10.9
165	130	Banks (S C)	160 †	...	8.0	6.7	7.9
245	153	Barr (AG)	237	...	5.4	3.1	15.9
137	95	Bensons Crsp	107	-2	2.8	3.6	∞
42	13½	Berisford Intl	18	...	...	...	...
27	12	Bio Isolates	17	...	...	...	7.9
491	409	Booker	444	+1	21.2	6.4	13.6
44	29	Borthwick	40	...	1.0	3.3	20.4
437	266	Brake Bros	437	...	5.2	1.6	19.1
47	26	Budgen	44	...	...	...	...
476	314	Cadbury-Schw	466	+6	12.5	3.6	16.2
167	102	Carrs Milling	104	...	3.9	5.0	...
144½	43	Clarke Foods	130	-4	...	2.3	35.2
257	155	Clifford Fd 'A'	208	...	11.0	7.1	8.1
161	70	Cornwick?	159	...	6.5	5.5	11.9
50	27	Cullens	38	...	0.5	1.8	11.6
439	332	Dalgety	395	+2	18.5	6.4	10.7
74	52	Daniels S	54	...	1.2	...	...
275	124	Fiscpak?	265	...	3.7	1.9	24.2
35	10	Farmingfood?	13	...	...	...	...
76	58	Finlay (James)	69	...	4.1	9.4	6.8
105	81	Fyffes	88	...	...	3.6	∞
363	258	Geest	355	...	7.0	2.6	14.1
28	8	Globe?	10	...	0.5	6.7	5.0
209	118	Hazlewood Fds	124	...	5.8	6.2	7.3
265	148	Hillsdown	168	+3	...	6.3	7.2
85	46	Hunter Saphir	52	...	5.0	...	5.6
457	265	Iceland Frozen	457	...	7.2	2.1	14.4
138	61½	JLI Group	120	...	...	4.8	15.1
639	404	Kwik Save	572	+8	14.7	3.4	13.0
343	218	Low (Wm)	239	...	8.4	4.7	7.6
95	59	Matthews (B)	70	...	4.5	8.6	8.6
46½	13½	Merchant Retail	20	-½	...	16.0	7.8
315	186	Morrison (W)	310	...	...	0.8	17.3
335	170	Nichols (JN)	335	...	11.0	4.4	11.7
584	333	Nthn Foods	559	+1	...	3.5	16.0
52	37	Nrthmbn Fm	38	...	1.7	6.1	...
202	152	Nurdin Peack	178	...	5.2	3.9	11.3
114	37	Park Foods	105	-1	...	16.5	3.2
172	111	Peter? Food	147	+1	3.8	3.4	11.5
15	6	Pomiagno?	10 #	...	...	...	...
332	197	RHM	213½	+2½	13.3	8.3	7.2
3½	1	Regina Hlth	2½	...	...	...	...
398	300½	Sainsbury J	390	...	...	2.5	16.7
278	169	Salvesen (C)	278	+3	6.6	3.2	16.6
63	40	Senior Farms	40	...	...	...	...
338½	176½	Sims Food	338	...	...	4.0	13.6
443	263	Tate & Lyle	428	...	11.2	3.5	11.5
170	40	Tavener?	170 †	...	6.0	4.7	∞
299	205	Tesco	260	-4	5.2	2.7	15.4
201	138	Thorntons	201	+1	3.6	2.4	16.2
113	58	Treasure?	111 †	...	3.4	4.1	13.6
331	252	Unigate	301	+2	15.3	6.8	12.9
429	317	Utd Biscuits	411	-1	14.4	4.7	14.4
23	11½	Usborne	16	...	1.5	...	9.2
361	225	Watson & Phil	330	...	12.8	5.2	13.2

HOTELS, CATERERS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
36	20	Abrdn Stk H	23	...	...	...	...
61	36	City Centre Rest	60	...	1.3	3.1	16.8
302	206	Forte	226	...	9.9	5.8	24.7
312	192	Friendly Hotels	202	...	5.0	3.3	8.6
21	9	Harmony Leis	10	...	...	...	...
293½	188½	Ladbroke	232	+3	11.1	6.6	15.7
47½	27	Mandarin Orntl	47½	+½	...	6.0	12.4
29	5	Principal Hotels	5½#	...	1.0	...	2.0
102½	72½	Queens Moat	81	...	2.6	4.3	9.6
115	93	-do- 7½% cnpr	101 †	+1	7.5	9.9	...
26	2	Regal Hotels	5	...	...	...	...
104	42	Resort Hotels	77	-1	3.4	5.9	11.7
895	625	Savoy Hotel 'A'	625	...	7.0	1.5	22.2
54	28	Simpsons Crn	30	-1	...	...	9.3
66	24	Stakis	24 †	-1	0.9	5.0	...

INDUSTRIALS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
178	115	AAF Inv	160	-2	...	6.4	∞
511	319	AAH	500	...	14.8	4.0	18.4
1210	280	ADT	503	-7	...	20.1	3.6
206	73	AIM	174	...	5.5	4.2	14.4
24	9½	APG	11#	...	1.5	...	3.7
135	85	APV	116	...	5.4	6.2	16.8
20	6	ASB Barnes	8	...	...	...	...
278	131	ASW	136	+3	9.8	9.1	∞
131	79	Adwest	101	+2	7.0	9.2	13.0
64	14	Aerospace Eng	16	...	3.1	...	3.7
310	126	Airsprung	310	+2	...	2.7	13.5
169	38	Alexdra W	54	...	5.0	12.3	4.0
27	18	Allied Radio	18½	+½	...	...	...
440	193	Alumasc	439 †	-1	10.0	3.0	13.0
330	278	Amber Ind	308	...	16.5	7.1	9.1
40	20	Amberley Gp	31	...	1.5	6.5	32.7
160	80	Andrews Sykes	149	...	4.4	3.9	13.1
605	270	Antofagasta	528	...	...	3.8	9.3
39½	29½	Armour	37½	-½	1.4	5.0	8.9
160	88	Ash & Lacy	148	...	6.4	5.8	10.9
3½	2	Ass Br Eng	2½	...	0.1	5.9	...
355	214	Avon Rubber	338	+1	16.5	6.5	16.8
6	4	Assoc Energy	4	...	...	...	...
158	68	Assoc Nursg	137	+2	1.0	...	...
870	648	Atlas Equip	853	...	19.5	3.0	17.4
85	38	Ayrshire Metal	47	...	2.7	...	4.4
165	103	BBA	134	...	...	7.5	18.8
233	67	BET Ord	151	+1	13.2	11.7	16.9
115	28	BLP Group	45	...	1.2	3.7	...
431	229½	BM Gp	400	+1	...	1.1	12.8
663	468	BOC	660	-2	...	4.4	14.2
65	36	BSG	64½	...	3.2	6.6	18.3
413	285	BSS Group	405	+4	17.2	5.2	10.3
430½	280½	BTR	390	-6	15.7	5.4	12.5
255	116	BWI	132	...	...	6.8	13.2
64½	35½	Babcock	59½	-1	3.0	6.7	9.7
8½	4½	Bailey (CH)	6	...	...	...	...
274	194	Baird (Wm)	215	...	...	5.5	11.5
44	4½	[illegible]	8	...	...	...	...
97	57	[illegible]	70	...	...	...	...
148	103	[illegible]	122	...	...	...	...
1037	518	Barlow Rand	831	...	...	4.1	11.7
113	33	Barren (H)	34	...	2.0	7.8	78.6
69	32½	Baynes (Charles)	61	...	...	2.6	16.9
149	18	Beauford	19	+1	6.0	...	1.3
48	12	Beckenham	12	-1	3.0	...	2.8
30	23	Bedford (W)	27	...	...	...	...
557	292	Bespak	531	...	9.0	2.4	23.5
187	106	Bibby (J)	185	-1	9.7	7.0	9.3
108	80	Billam (J)	108	+6	4.2	5.4	∞
92	28	Bilston Batsn	30	...	3.0	...	...
86	37	Birmec Ind	67½	...	...	3.0	13.0
41	23	Black Arrow	27	...	2.1	10.4	9.1
5	1	Black & Edgtn	1¼	...	...	...	0.1
140	108	Black (Peter)	130	...	2.8	2.9	16.0
66	28	Blundell Thys	59	...	...	...	...
380	211	Bodycote	380	...	8.7	3.1	13.9
479	304	Boots	459	-6	11.6	3.4	18.5
92	69	Booth Inds	75	...	3.2	5.7	5.0
40	21½	Boustead	21½	...	1.6	...	7.4
786	432	Bowater	785	+9	...	4.0	16.3
1839	1042	Bowater Inc	1549	-30	...	...	...
304	130	Boxmore Intl	300	-3	6.4	2.8	14.2
19	11	Brasway	15½	...	0.5	4.4	29.3
246	169	Brammer	220	...	13.0	7.9	15.5
45	24½	Bridgend Gp	26	+1	1.2	6.2	10.5
149	83	Brixton?	90	...	8.0	11.9	7.0
92	43	Bridport-Gndry	55	...	4.1	9.9	8.1
45	26	Brierley Inv	31	...	...	...	27.4
355	355	Br Bldg & Eng	355	...	0.5	...	...
85	35	Br Bloodstock	40	...	...	...	...
420	215	Br Polythene	420	+2	9.0	2.9	∞
149	61	Br Steel	73½	+½	8.7	15.9	...
98	61	Br Syphon	93	...	...	...	...
16	3¼	Br Thornton	11	...	...	...	...
255	174½	Br Vita	244 †	-4	...	3.9	∞
681	383	Broken Hill	586	+2	...	3.0	12.8
141½	98½	Bromsgrve Ind	104	...	...	5.1	7.4
21	6¼	Brooke Tool	9	...	0.2	3.7	∞
94	39	Brown & Tawse	66	...	5.7	11.5	...
165	77	Bullough	154	...	6.0	5.2	14.2
99	27	Business Tech	27	-2	1.5	...	3.5
35	23	CI Group	24	...	2.0	11.4	5.8
1988	900	CMB Pack	1963	+13	...	2.8	11.5
18	6¼	Cabra Est	7¼	...	0.1	...	...
92	47	Campbell & Arm	51	...	2.0	5.2	...
122	13	Candover? St	19	-1	...	...	2.2
247	183	Cape	231	...	10.5	6.1	11.9
324	154	Caparo Group	304	...	5.4	2.4	∞
144	107	Cardo Eng	143	...	7.8	7.3	12.7
27½	10	Carlyle? Plc	23½	...	0.2	1.1	19.8
66	35	Cassidy Bros	56	-4	1.5	3.6	7.0
133	78	Castings	128	...	3.7	3.9	9.3
49	26	Celestion	30	...	1.2	5.3	8.7
109	85	Chamberlin Hill	95	...	5.7	8.1	5.3
554	402	Charter Cons	506	-2	21.0	5.5	11.9
820	450	Chemring	820	+5	29.6	4.8	10.4
108	65	Chloride Gp	100	...	4.9	6.7	11.9
56	27	Chillington	27	...	2.7	...	...
253	120	Christies Int	150	-1	8.3	7.4	10.2
82½	38	Chrysalis?	38	-1	...	8.8	2.8
161	110	Clayton Son	110	...	11.8	...	12.7
21	¼	Co Designers	7 #	...	0.2	...	...
535	350	Cohen (A)	355	...	23.1	8.7	37.2
38	14	Comeco?	33	-1	...	...	...
220	148	Community H	229	...	6.0	3.5	14.4
283	225	Concentric	282	...	11.1	5.3	16.2
56	23	Cont Stationery	33	...	4.0	...	6.7
334	203	Cook (Wm)	270	-3	14.0	6.9	7.4
143	84½	Cookson	110	-2	...	7.3	...
63	33	Copymore?	45	...	2.5	7.4	9.1
196	117	Crwell Pty 'A'	195	...	5.5	3.8	14.7
60	26	Corp Services	29	...	...	...	...
168	116	Cosalt	145	...	10.7	9.0	10.4
547	300	Courtaulds	524	-3	12.0	3.1	13.9
42	4	Courtney Pope	10	+½	...	...	...
238	140	Creighton N	237	...	6.2	3.5	20.9
42	21	Cresta?	22	...	2.0	12.1	2.4
2162	1362	Dana	2112 †	+12	...	...	...
196	120	Danka Bs Sys	185	...	3.0	2.2	7.5
50	8	Davies (DY)	10	...	...	...	...
175	111	Davis Service	175	+3	7.9	6.1	12.5
599	284	De La Rue	575	-4	15.0	3.5	20.7
116½	14	Dean & Bowes	14	-1	...	...	...
18	10	Dinkie Heel	10	...	0.9	12.7	6.3
303	194	Diploma	303	+1	8.7	3.9	17.6
90	53½	Dobson Park	67	...	5.7	11.4	10.5
138	97	Dyson (J&J)	98	...	5.0	6.8	13.0
72	53	-do- 'A'	64	...	5.0	10.4	8.5
514	318	ECC Group	505 †	...	...	5.4	16.8
33	10	EFG	10	...	1.2	...	...
410	254	EIS	386	+2	...	3.9	13.8
25	12	EIT Gp	16	...	...	...	...
27	13	Elbief	20	...	0.5	...	...
74	36	Elcco	45	...	4.6	14.4	9.1
2725	1443	Electrolux 'B'	2575	-46	...	4.8	∞
81	4	Elliott (B)	8	-½	4.6	...	...
13¼	7¼	Elswick	10½	...	0.6	7.6	9.4
2087	850	Ericsson 'B'	1187	+12	...	2.9	∞
86	37	Erskine Hse	76	+1	6.6	11.7	4.9
169	67	Eurocopy	68 †	...	4.0	7.8	∞
194	134	Expamet	147	...	10.3	9.8	∞
363	171	Fairey Group	363	+4	8.2	3.0	13.1
143	101	Fenner	102	...	8.5	11.2	21.2
2¼	¼	Feromet?	...	...	0.0	8.9	3.8
76	41	Ferrum	41	...	7.3	5.4	...
99	71	Fife Indmar	78	...	4.9	8.4	7.1
515	293	Fisons	391	+6	8.7	3.0	18.5
86	46	Flexello?	46	...	...	9.6	6.7
250	175	Fogarty?	250	+15	...	3.7	12.2
60	50	Folkes Group nv	50	...	2.3	6.1	8.2
39	35	French (Thomas)	39	...	3.6	8.2	23.9
336	256	Frost Group	329	...	...	0.8	12.9
114	75	GEI Intl	86	+1	7.7	11.3	9.0
398	268	GKN	353	-1	20.5	8.0	42.5
117	64½	GR Hldgs	70 †	...	...	4.1	11.2
132	92	Garton Eng	97	...	7.0	9.6	7.1
240	108	Gestetner	112	-1	8.2	9.8	4.9
103	41	Glevco?	41	-1	3.0	9.8	...
943	400	Glaxo	775 †	-4	14.0	2.4	24.0
23	8	Glenchewton	17	+1	...	...	...
287	172	Glynwed	225	...	11.6	6.9	16.4
109	68	Goode Durrant	72	...	5.4	10.0	11.7
207	116	Grampian Hd	170	...	5.0	3.9	14.6
259	132	Granada	255	...	7.0	3.7	24.9
260	185	Great Sthrn	255	...	8.5	4.4	16.3
153	100	Green (Ernst)	120	...	7.0	7.8	6.2
12	4½	Greenacre?	8½	...	0.2	3.5	14.5
149	46	Haden MacLn	118½	...	8.5	9.0	7.5
188	62	Hadleigh Inds	62	...	6.5	...	4.0
147	60	Hall Eng	147	...	8.6	7.8	29.0
15	6	Halls Homes	6	...	1.0	...	...
181	97	Halma	175	-1	...	1.3	25.4
48	31	Hampson Ind	39	...	2.3	8.1	10.8
249½	179	Hanson	219½	+2	11.0	6.7	10.8
164	81	Harris (Philip)	158	+1	5.7	4.9	10.9
172	100	Harrisn Crsfld	117	...	9.0	10.3	16.6
122	81	Havelock Euro	82	...	3.6	5.9	13.9
8	1½	Hawthorn Les	1½#	...	...	...	...
45	18	Hay (Norman)	35	+3	1.1	4.3	13.9
45	21	Headway	24	...	...	3.1	6.6
401	245	Hepworth	398	-2	14.8	5.0	14.8
166	108	Hewitt (J)	133	...	2.5	2.5	∞
323	215	High-Point	225	...	7.5	4.4	8.6
13	4	Holson?	5½	...	...	...	...
85	68	Holders Tech	80	+2	6.0	10.5	∞
6½	3	Holmes Protectn	4½	...	...	...	...
85	58	Hopkinsons	74	...	3.7	6.7	9.2
250	163	Hornby	227	-2	9.0	5.3	10.1
33	14½	Hospital Crp	16	...	...	6.7	4.3
64	30½	Howden	61	...	2.0	4.4	6.8
200	165	Hunting	174	+4	10.0	7.7	7.3
408	108	Huntigh Tech	370	...	3.0	1.1	24.9
130	79	Hutch Whamp	116	+1	...	4.2	14.1
272	183	IMI	246	+1	10.0	5.4	13.6
94	49	ISA Intl	57	+2	1.2	3.0	9.8
469	213	Inchcape	458	...	...	3.6	21.8
152	43	Ineresn Gp	149	...	2.0	1.8	20.3
241	176	Isotron	240	+15	3.5	2.0	16.6
173	92	JS Pathology	97	+1	5.5	7.6	11.6
353	174	Jardine Math	353	+1	...	2.1	14.0
648	380	Johnson Clean	647	-1	25.7	5.3	13.4
388	233	Johnson Mattn	366	+1	9.2	3.4	14.3
73	44	Johnson & FB	59½	...	3.0	6.7	11.9
278	205	Johnston	205	...	13.0	8.5	10.2
76	30	Jones Stroud?	35	...	1.0	...	24.8
57	28	Jourdan (T)	28	...	2.5	...	7.4
49½	28	Kalamazoo	45½	...	2.0	5.9	6.1
100½	34	Kalon	96½	...	2.3	3.1	∞
493	403	Kelsey Ind	433	...	28.0	8.6	7.0
9	2¼	Kemp (PE)	7 #	...	...	...	...
553	450	Kershaw (A)	520 †	...	27.0	6.9	26.8
73	23½	Kleen-Eze	67	-3	...	...	...
38	31	LGW	32	...	1.0	...	...
282	154	Laird	271	-1	10.0	4.9	15.0
141	83	Lee (Arthur)	109	...	5.9	7.2	54.5
118	91	Lilleshall	92	...	4.0	6.0	∞
86	68	Lincat	79	...	5.1	8.6	10.8
6½	2	Lincoln Hse	5½	...	...	...	...
126	61	Linread	79	...	5.7	9.6	44.6
265	166	Linton Park	166	-4	13.0	10.4	9.5
36	9	Lionheart	35½	...	...	...	...
25	16	Locker (T) A	17	...	1.6	...	...
315	190	Lon Intl	287	-1	9.2	4.3	18.0
277	107	Lonrho	118	+1	13.0	14.7	17.7
278	158	Low & Bonar	276	+4	9.1	4.5	∞
277	147	MB-Caradon	275	...	...	4.1	21.4
136	83	-do- pf	133	...	7.2	7.5	...
96	26	ML Hldgs	26	...	3.4	17.7	14.9
60	20½	MS Intl	21	-1	2.5	15.9	...
40	20	MY Holdings	38	...	0.5	1.8	45.5
335	123	Macarthy	335	+7	10.0	4.0	20.1
207	153	Macfarlane	186	...	4.0	2.9	16.4
331	210	McKechnie	322	...	14.7	6.1	19.5
94	61	McLeod Russel	91	...	5.8	8.6	13.4
12½	3½	Maddox	11 †	...	...	...	...
98	70	Magnolia	93	...	5.4	7.7	7.6
133	83	Mang Bronze	95	...	1.0	1.4	76.4
105	73	Marling	96	...	4.2	...	...
108	19	Mayborn	108	...	3.8	4.7	10.8
299	73	Medeva	288	+6	0.7	0.3	...
105	46½	Meggitt	98½	-1½	...	1.0	...
116	55½	Metalrax	116	+2	...	4.6	10.1
166	130	Metsec	132	...	6.4	4.9	7.8
49	26	Michael Page	40½	...	1.8	5.9	8.4
71	42	Midsumr	42	...	3.0	9.5	4.8
22½	9	Mining & Ald	20	...	0.0	0.4	...
187	128	Mitie Gp	171	...	2.0	1.6	15.5
382	253	Molins	380	...	12.0	4.2	10.2
283	190	Morgan Cble	260	...	...	6.4	12.4
102	53	Morris Ashby	88	...	4.1	6.2	10.2
40	22	Neepsend	24 †	...	1.5	8.3	6.7
92	60	Nestor-BNA	65	...	3.1	6.5	9.2
149	68	Nobo Gp	75	...	6.6	...	15.3
163	85	Norcros	126	+1	7.0	7.4	24.9
103	62	Novo Group	73	...	...	...	...
563	340	Nu-Swift	424	...	18.0	5.7	9.5
46	21	Office Elec Mac	41	...	0.1	0.3	...
76	33	OMI Intl	34	...	5.2	20.4	9.0
147	41½	PCT	147	...	...	5.9	10.6
77	51	Pacer Systems	51	...	...	7.2	4.6
128	40	PFG Hodgson	49	...	3.6	...	6.1
330	80	Permali	90	...	11.2	...	2.8
122	43	Pendand?	100	...	2.2	3.0	∞
308	160	Photo-Me	294	-1	4.2	1.9	15.8
210	111	Pilkington	127	+1	10.5	11.0	...
35	25	Platon	30	...	...	...	...
128	67½	Polypipe	116	+1	...	2.2	17.6
396	249	Portals	371	+1	13.0	4.7	12.8
80½	46	Porter Chadbrn	48 †	...	...	6.7	7.5
50½	9	Porth Gp	9	...	...	...	...
255	125	Powerscreen	254	...	3.5	2.9	14.8
18½	3½	Prospect Inds	16½	...	0.4	3.3	6.1
426	262	Pritchard Serv	380	...	19.0	6.7	8.2
7½	4½	RMT Gp	4½	...	...	...	...
130	27	RPS Group	27	...	3.2	15.8	2.9
110	70	Radiant Metal	100	...	...	...	...
79	45	Ramco Oil	53	-2	2.0	5.0	19.7
779	548	Rank Org	685 †	+7	31.0	6.0	19.5
111	28	Ransomes	32	-1	6.1	...	...
741	483½	Reckitt Colm	689	-3	13.6	2.6	15.8
14½	5	Reeer?	5½	...	0.1	2.5	9.4
76	34	Reed Executive	71	...	0.6	...	...
289	147	Reliance Sec	245	...	8.4	4.6	13.3
140	117	Relyon	149	...	4.9	4.4	15.4
325	222	Renishaw	255	...	6.0	3.2	17.3
78	47	Renold	48½	-½	3.7	...	11.8
25	10	Restmor?	10	...	...	...	...
1226	673	Reuters	1159	-11	17.0	2.0	∞
34½	25	Rexmore	29	...	2.2	10.3	7.2
121	90	Ricardo Ind	93	...	5.7	8.2	9.0
95	66	Richard (Leics)	75	...	4.4	7.8	6.2
80	31	Richardson West	52	...	2.7	7.1	9.8
51	7	Robinson (T)	27	...	4.0	...	5.6
205	143	Rolfe & Nolan	205	...	5.6	3.6	11.5
142	115	Ropner	127	+4	8.2	8.7	9.3
136	106	-do- 'A'	117	+3	8.2	9.4	8.5
60	22½	Ross Gp	45	...	...	0.4	...
314	166	Rotork	310	...	9.0	3.9	18.1
99	72	Russell (A)	88	...	2.1	3.3	16.1
18	10	SEP Inds	15 †	...	0.2	1.8	∞
1137	618	SKF 'B'	1000	+21	...	4.2	∞
41	5	Sale Tilney	8	...	...	...	...
140	107	Sanderson Elec	120	-3	8.7	9.7	6.4
54	35	Savage	44	...	...	...	...
39	22	Saville Gordn (J)	31 †	...	2.2	9.5	...
180	112	Scapa	171	+1	...	4.1	13.3
220	144	Scholl	213	...	...	3.8	21.3
23	6	Scot Heritable	8	-½	1.5	...	...
803	633	Securicor	780 †	...	2.3	0.4	47.6
652	424	-do- 'A'	600 †	...	2.3	0.5	36.6
156	56	Securiguard	140 †	...	8.5	8.1	8.3
522	330	Security Serv	489 †	-1	4.4	1.2	46.0
10	1½	Select Appt	2½	...	1.2	...	...
73	30½	Senior Eng	72½†	...	...	3.6	12.7
625	349	Serco Gp	620	-1	11.9	2.6	∞
310	138	Seton Health	303	-2	3.7	1.6	22.8
87	65	Sheldon Jones	65	...	2.5	5.3	...
128	63	Shiloh	122	...	...	2.9	12.6
266	126	Sidlaw	266	+8	9.0	4.5	15.1
594	289	Siebe	580	+1	16.5	3.8	13.9
209	80	Silentnight	196	...	7.0	4.8	11.4
96	65	Sime Darby	88	...	...	3.8	13.7
394	214	Simon Eng	270	-1	15.7	7.8	12.3
297	223	Sinclair (Wm)	281	...	6.7	3.2	16.4
53	28	Six Hundred	36	...	2.5	...	...
146	65	Slingsby?	121	...	...	...	...
155	95½	Smith & Neph	147	-½	4.3	3.9	17.7
977½	580	Smithkline	900	-7	15.4	2.3	19.9
4468	2585	Smithkline Uts	4125	-13	...	2.4	18.3
286	210	Smiths Ind	278	+1	10.7	5.1	10.1
107	61	Sthn Bus	105	+3	2.9	3.7	9.3
380	230	Spandex?	310	-15	5.5	2.4	12.7
272	230	Spear (JW)	260	...	8.0	4.1	14.6
263	167	Spirax-Sarco	261	+1	8.7	4.4	13.2
165	62½	Spring Ram	164	...	...	0.2	30.2
110	68	Stag Furniture	110	...	5.5	6.7	12.2
45	18	Stainless Metal	29	-1	...	...	...
34	14	Star Comp	22	...	...	...	...
213	151½	Staveley	165	...	...	6.6	9.2
152	102	Sterling Ind	107	...	5.6	7.0	14.5
29½	13	Stonehill	13	-½	...	...	...
28	3	Stoneguard	5 #	...	...	...	...
142	83	Suter	118	-1	8.8	9.9	8.9
211	98	Swire Pacfc 'A'	210	-1	...	2.8	21.1
26	16	Sycamore	16	...	...	...	18.9
268	178	Sylcone?	245	...	9.0	4.9	10.9
194½	98	T & N	111	+1	10.8	13.0	16.1
637	371	TI	627	+7	19.5	4.1	12.5
43	15	TLS Range	16	-1	...	...	...
211	90	TT Group	200	...	5.0	3.3	14.2
194	127	Tabuse?	189	...	1.0	0.8	21.9
7512	5337	Takeda Chem	5668	...	...	0.1	...
57	28	Tex Hldgs	36	...	...	...	...
208	100	Thornton (GW)	198	+3	5.5	3.7	12.6
110	69	TGH	110	-2	...	...	...
77	57	Tinsley (E)	57	...	5.2	12.2	10.4
121	40	Titon	121	+2	3.2	3.6	13.0
459	213	Tomkins	450	-4	9.8	2.9	15.6
261	119	Trafalgar H	135	+4	18.4	18.2	10.5
252	110	-do- 'A'	126	+2	...	...	...
430	162½	Transfer Tech	412	+7	13.0	4.3	∞
157	95	Triplex Lloyd	145	...	7.0	6.4	15.4
210	108	UniChem	207	+2	...	3.2	18.9
300	165	Unidare	290	...	...	6.8	∞
31	14	Unigroup	21	-1	...	...	47.1
969	656	Unilever	946	+4	18.9	2.7	∞
5987	4343	Unilever (NV)	5800	+37	...	2.9	∞
470	330	VSEL	362	-1	22.5	8.3	4.9
40	11	Verson	11	...	0.0	...	...
245	146	Vickers	162	-3	8.0	5.0	...
280	157	Vinten	280	...	6.2	3.0	14.6
£142½	9900	Volkswagen	£128¾	...	...	...	...
289	209	Vosper Thorny	244	...	11.3	6.2	6.9
81	61	WSP Hldgs	64	...	3.0	6.0	7.1
430	310	Wagon Ind	390	+1	17.0	5.8	11.3
71	39	Walker Greenbk	57	-1	3.1	7.3	12.6
284	165	Warner Howard	278	...	5.2	2.5	17.1
226	124	Wassall	226	+9	2.5	1.5	19.6
38	18½	Waterford Wdgwd	29	...	...	...	...
495	227	Weir	495	+2	9.3	2.5	18.2
1174	404	Wellcome	1023	-6	10.0	1.3	35.6
39½	20½	Wellman	33½	...	2.2	8.8	5.5
23	8	Welpac	23 †	+4½	...	...	...
480	373	Whatman	430	...	7.7	2.4	13.9
272	121	Wheeler?	269	...	...	3.6	11.6
53	18	Whessoe	24	...	2.0	11.1	12.9
199	77	Whitecroft	109	...	...	12.2	21.5
13	6½	Widney	10	...	...	...	...
197	94	Wilkes (James)	164	-1	10.0	8.1	7.2
55	¼	Wilkins Gp	1½	...	...	...	...
375	206	Williams Hldg	316	+1	12.3	5.3	15.2
9½	2½	Wills Gp	8½	...	...	...	3.3
445	290	Wolseley	445	+3	12.1	3.6	20.0
135	117	Wood (Arthur)	130	...	4.1	4.2	13.9
78	32	Wood (SW)	65	-1	0.1	0.2	...
158	87½	Worcester	149	...	4.0	3.6	20.2
68	43	Wyko	60	...	2.8	6.2	...
71	36	Young (H)	50	-1	6.0	16.0	11.8

INSURANCE

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1587	987	Alex & Alex	1225 †	+18	...	4.6	...
2500	1475	Am Gen	2462	-25	...	4.8	...
120	49	Archer (AJ)	49	...	4.4	12.0	5.7
175	123	Bradstock	161 †	+1	4.7	3.9	18.6
981	589	Britannic	857	...	25.3	3.9	...
535	420	Com Union	469	+6	23.6	6.9	...
50	23	FAI	31	...	...	...	...
589	408	Gen Accident	437	-1	26.7	8.5	...
238	98	GRE	116	-1	11.9	13.7	...
529	418	Heath CE	439	-1	...	7.9	15.6
231	153	Hogg Gp	182	+1	8.0	5.9	11.8
216	189	JIB Group	191	-1	...	3.2	14.2
476	341	Legal & Gen	362	+1	17.9	6.6	...
733	599	Liberty Life	643 †	+7	...	6.9	15.7
442	312	Lloyds Abbey	380 †	+1	17.3	6.1	∞
258	149	Lloyd Thomp	243	+3	...	2.5	22.2
369	242	Londn & Man	276	+1	13.3	6.4	20.4
354	297	Lowndes Lmb	337	-3	...	4.5	15.7
4962	3556	Marsh McLn	4381	+6	...	...	...
191	109	Oak?	143	...	...	4.5	11.3
100	61	PWS	62 †	...	4.0	8.6	6.6
266½	187	Prudential	238	-1	10.3	5.8	31.4
787	577	Refuge	663	...	26.7	5.4	34.6
491	174	Royal	176	...	11.2	8.5	...
284	195	Sedgwick	228	+7	12.0	7.3	∞
340	254	Steel Burrill	299	...	12.2	5.5	15.6
285	177	Sturge Hldgs	177	...	16.5	12.4	7.8
408	260	Sun Alliance	278	+3	14.0	6.7	...
101	38	Trade Indemnty	40	...	...	...	...
433	321	Utd Friendly	321	-5	10.2	4.3	14.5
337	227	Willis Corroon	252	-2	13.2	7.0	17.7
22	10	Windsor	17	...	...	...	62.4

INVESTMENT TRUSTS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
1420	999	Alliance	1379	-3	40.0	3.9	33.9
190	125	Amer Trust	181	-1	4.7	3.5	40.1
291	212½	Ang & O'seas	272	...	6.4	3.2	∞
107½	90	B2W Conv	105	...	7.7	9.8	12.6
122	77	Bankers	118	-1	...	3.9	34.3
158	105	Berry Starq	145	...	1.8	1.7	35.2
90½	63	Br Assets	77½	...	...	7.2	18.6
54½	42½	Br Empire Sec	52	...	0.8	2.2	49.8
16	10	-do- Wnts	10	...	...	...	...
740	514	Br Inv	708	+1	22.5	4.2	31.3
167	128	Brunner	157 †	-1	4.7	4.0	28.2
1500	1163	City & Comm	1363	...	...	...	...
169	127	Contl Assets	158	+1	1.2	1.1	79.4
244	191	Derby Inc	207	-1	18.4	11.9	11.3
219	165	-do- Cap	171	...	...	...	...
93	52	Drayton Asia	85	...	0.7	1.1	...
103	90	-do- Blue Chip	91	-1	...	12.3	...
410	144	-do- Cons	172	...	14.0	10.9	11.7
102	28	-do- Eng Intl	36	-1	3.2	...	11.4
116	70	-do- Far East	85	...	0.6	1.0	...
96	85	-do- Korea	86	...	...	...	...
102	90	-do- Recovery	90	...	...	11.6	...
596	430	Dunedin Inc G	519	+5	25.4	6.7	∞
532	380	-do- Wwide	490	...	9.5	2.6	48.6
284	205	Dundee & Lon	249	...	12.0	6.4	22.0
70	58	EFM Inc Tst	58	...	...	11.2	...
42½	37	-do- Dly Pf	42	...	...	...	...
244½	181	Edinburgh	226	-2	7.7	4.5	27.9
126	89	Electric Gen	122	...	3.0	3.3	37.2
153	67	English Scot	73½	...	...	...	...
53	17	Ensign	41½	...	0.3	1.0	...
243	193	European Asset	213	...	...	2.7	∞
203	150	Fleming Amer	194½†	-1	1.2	0.9	...
366	263	-do- Claver	328	...	10.5	4.3	32.4
167	124	-do- Emrg	139 †	...	4.3	4.1	29.2
229	151	-do- F East	198	...	2.0	1.3	...
249	149	-do- Fledg	237 †	...	...	1.7	∞
105	83½	-do- Hi Inc	85 †	...	5.7	9.0	14.9
185½	108½	-do- Japan	146	...	...	0.6	...
241	187	-do- Merc	227½	...	6.7	4.0	∞
212½	147½	-do- Oseas	193 †	...	4.0	2.8	49.8
244	194	-do- Univ	219	...	2.8	1.7	60.7
182	124	Foreign & Col	174	-½	3.1	2.5	∞
183	140	-do- Eurotst	166	...	1.1	0.9	...
110	80	-do- German	94	-2	...	0.3	...
204	125	-do- Pacific	185	+1	...	1.1	68.4
103	64½	-do- Smaller	97	...	...	2.4	49.5
234	151	GT Japan	175	+1	1.1	0.9	...
127	75	Genl Cons Cap	91	+1	...	...	...
136	106	-do- Inc	106 †	...	10.4	13.1	9.8
202	126	Govett Atlantic	201	+1	3.5	2.3	52.5
196	126½	-do- Oriental	164	-1	...	0.7	...
209	153	-do- Strategy	191	-1	6.7	4.7	24.0
306	229	Greenfriar	288	...	6.1	2.8	35.5
300	10	Gresham House	16	+1	3.0	...	...
38	25	Independent Inv	37½	...	0.4	1.6	50.1
119	88½	Inv Cap	99	...	...	6.9	19.3
101	76	-do- Opt Inc	79	...	...	12.2	10.5
158	130½	-do- Inc 0%	158	+1	...	...	...
100	65	I&S UK Smllr	81	...	2.0	3.3	41.6
163	126	Kleinwort Chrt	147 †	-1	5.0	4.5	26.9
171	126	-do- O'seas	158½	...	3.2	2.7	∞
126	90	-do- Smlr	107	-½	4.6	5.7	20.0
488	325	Law Debenture	475	...	16.0	4.5	26.0
301	233	Majedie	276	+1	9.0	4.3	28.2
233	164	Merchants	200	...	...	6.5	19.7
3993	1006	Merrill Lynch	3325 †	-31	...	...	...
375	268	Monks Inv Tst	342	-2	0.7	2.6	45.7
101	83	More Gen Inc	83	...	...	...	...
29	16	Do Warrants	16	...	...	...	...
266	195	Murray Income	246	+1	...	5.8	24.0
247	176	-do- Intl	245	+1	...	6.3	∞
257	181½	-do- Small	253	...	3.7	2.0	50.8
247	176	-do- Vent	230	-2	10.3	6.0	19.6
58	42	New Frontier	58	...	0.2	0.6	69.2
8050	6950	-do- 6½% Ln	7950 †	...	...	8.2	...
121	95½	Nwthrng Inc	97	...	8.0	11.2	11.9
240	183	O'seas Inv Tst	235	...	2.5	1.4	71.6
241	133	Pacific Assets	239	-1	1.0	0.6	∞
10½	2	Parsida Gp	2½#	...	...	...	...
68	34	Personal Assets	61	-½	...	3.3	40.0
105	84	RIT Cap Ptnr	91	...	2.4	3.6	20.9
122	98	River & Merc	102 †	-1	...	12.0	11.6
310	253	Robeco	305	...	...	3.4	...
310	236	Rolinco	310	...	...	1.8	...
242	189	St Andrew Inv	218	-1	7.5	4.7	∞
174	134	Scottish	168	...	4.4	3.5	37.2
119½	92½	Scot American	114½†	-½	...	4.9	26.4
63	46	-do- Eastern	58	...	1.4	3.3	∞
95	63	Scot Merc 'A'	86	...	2.8	4.4	29.5
162	114	-do- Mtge	147	...	3.7	3.4	33.3
56½	46½	-do- Value	56½	+½	...	2.9	∞
1255	882	Second Allnce	1193 †	-1	35.0	3.9	33.1
76	57½	Secs Tst of Scot	69½	...	3.1	5.9	22.4
102	71	Selective Asset	90 †	...	0.8	1.2	70.8
33	16½	Sphere Inv	16½	-½	3.8	30.4	4.9
94	56	TR Far East	88 †	...	4.2	6.4	18.8
121½	90	TR City Of Lon	106½	...	...	6.0	22.8
92	49	TR Pacific	83	...	...	0.4	∞
37	23½	TR Property	24½	...	1.4	7.9	23.5
52	20	TR Tech Inv	37	...	...	6.6	9.6
155	98	TR Smlr Cos	132	-2	3.7	3.7	30.5
278	210	Temple Bar	244 †	...	13.0	7.1	17.1
72	55	Thrmtn Asian E	61	-1	0.5	1.1	...
64	45	Throgmorton	49 †	...	2.3	6.3	∞
378	260	Thrmg Dual Cp	330	...	...	...	...
256	189	Tribune	238 †	...	6.2	3.5	38.3
165	133	USDC Invest	157	-1	4.2	3.6	32.5
74	56	Value Inc Tst	63½	...	...	6.8	15.4
577	478	Whitbread Inv	573	-1	13.9	3.2	40.8
167	125	Witan	157	...	5.3	4.5	27.7

LEISURE

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
62	27½	Airbreak Leis	54	...	...	4.3	14.9
270	38½	Airtours	263	+1	...	2.9	9.7
109	59	Ald Leis	59	...	4.7	11.0	4.7
246	140	Anglia TV	237	...	9.2	5.2	10.8
201	123	Barr & W 'A'	198	...	9.7	6.6	12.2
915	425	Boosey Hwkes	905	...	16.4	2.4	17.0
87	24	Border TV	77	...	2.1	3.6	10.7
88	9½	Brent Walker	12	-½	5.0	...	...
55	7½	Buckingham Int	11	...	2.1	...	2.6
448	183	Campari	441	...	11.0	3.3	12.1
231	134	Capital Radio	203	+1	5.2	3.4	21.3
574	350	Carlton Comm	559 †	...	15.5	3.7	18.7
253	168	Castle Comm	217	+3	8.5	5.2	12.4
1348	480	Central TV	1325	-8	28.5	2.9	38.8
104	39	Chrysalis	74	...	...	...	...
468	361	Compass Gp	445	-3	11.4	3.4	13.9
338	225	Eurocamp	310	+1	...	3.7	∞
1640	908	Euro Disney	1635	+15	...	...	...
30	5	Euro Leisure	6	...	0.7	15.6	3.3
44	21½	Ex-Lands	33	...	...	...	...
47	8	Expedier	10½	...	1.0	...	...
305	188	First Leisure	294 †	...	5.7	2.6	21.0
268	195	GWR Gp	260 †	...	1.8	1.0	35.1
141	59	Grampian	141	+8	4.1	3.9	11.0
8	4	Greenwich Comm	7	...	...	...	...
71	33	HTV Group	71	...	3.7	7.0	16.4
197½	53½	Hi-Tec Sports	173	...	...	4.2	11.6
64	30	Intl Resort	34	-½	2.5	9.8	7.1
47	8	Kunick	9	-2	1.4	20.7	3.5
279	80	LWT CP	273	+1	...	2.6	19.5
353	98	Marina Devs	180	...	5.0	...	...
123	34	Owners Abrd	120 †	+½	3.2	3.6	∞
31	14	The Pelican Gp	26	...	...	5.1	16.8
140	76	Prism Leisure	120	...	4.9	5.5	9.0
127	42	Quadrant Grp	58	...	4.0	9.2	8.7
319	222	Radio Clyde	313	-2	8.2	3.5	20.4
778	257½	Scot TV	768	...	...	2.5	23.0
215	97	Stanley Leisure	212	...	4.8	3.1	14.3
195	110	Sunset & Vine	193	...	3.5	2.4	22.7
217	77	TV-am	92	+4	14.0	22.8	∞
87	3½	TVS	4½	+½	3.0	...	0.2
86	41	TSW	46	...	...	9.4	12.6
352	172	Thames TV	184	-3	16.0	...	10.2
118	82	Tottenhm Hot	112	-1	...	...	...
88	46	Trans World	68	...	...	...	...
21	7	Trillion	8	...	0.5	8.3	...
322	230	Tyne Tees TV	305	...	...	6.3	8.6
196	116	Ulster TV	195	...	6.7	4.6	45.0
85½	31½	Wembley	33	...	7.3	...	...
68	9	Whitegate	12	...	1.5	16.7	4.0
312	148	Yorkshire TV	160	...	12.0	10.0	7.4
136	95	Zetters Gp	122	...	8.0	8.7	11.7

MINING

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
4887	2962	Am Gold	3512	+12	...	4.4	22.6
2512	1225	Ang Am Coal	1912	...	...	4.5	...
2350	1300	Ang Am	1900	...	...	3.4	15.7
19	11	Anglo Pac Res	11½	...	...	...	...
192	92	Blyvoors	99½	+1	...	6.2	5.4
42	18	Bracken	19½	...	...	26.0	2.3
861	408	Buffels	408	-1	...	10.3	6.6
13	2½	Butte	2½	-¼	...	...	...
662	355	CRA	611	+4	...	...	16.9
67½	21	Cluff Res	21	...	1.0	6.7	∞
1831	943	De Beers	1378	...	...	4.3	...
167	92	Deelkraal	105	...	...	3.8	8.9
84	24½	Doornfontein	25	...	...	...	...
844	505	Driefontein	625	+41	...	5.0	12.7
13	2	DRX	4	...	...	...	...
459	166	Durban	284	-1	...	...	...
282	128	E Dagga	138	...	...	...	6.6
622	268	Elandsrand	346	-1	...	2.0	12.0
87	32	Elsburg	42½	+3	...	...	...
196	84	E Rand Gold	84	...	...	...	...
270	130	E Rand Prop	149½	...	...	...	...
594	316	FS Cons	490	+1	...	5.9	...
64	18	FS Dev	18	...	...	...	...
1749	846	GFSA	1125	+3	...	3.6	16.9
17	2	Geevor Tin	4½#	...	...	...	...
275	137	Gencor	168	...	...	5.1	13.2
36½	19½	GM Kalgoorli	35½	-½	...	1.2	∞
26	8	Greenwich R 'A'	8½	...	...	...	...
90	40	Grootvlei	64½	...	...	17.2	∞
485	237	Harmony	329½	-½	...	...	...
432	234	Harties	241	...	...	8.6	11.6
10	5	Inoco	5	...	...	...	...
25	3½	Keninure? Res	4½	...	...	...	∞
1112	560	Kinross	590	-1	...	8.0	7.2
704	361	Kloof	474	+5	...	3.8	7.9
89	44	Leslie	48½	...	...	8.3	6.0
76	28	Libanon	39½	+3	...	...	...
144	47	Loraine	48½	...	...	...	...
118	56	MIM	110	+½	...	...	11.7
888	684	Minorco	796	-11	...	3.6	12.4
122	69	Nth Brkn Hill	110	...	...	5.1	9.0
1376	776	Orange Free	1079	+6	...	7.0	...
605	404	RTZ	539	+4	19.5	4.8	14.4
1462	812	Rand Mines	1162	...	...	5.2	3.7
243	163	Rand Min Prp	198	...	...	12.2	12.1
334	158	Randfontein	255	...	...	...	...
323	186	Renison	211	+3	...	7.2	7.3
1418	775	Rustnbrg	1062	...	...	...	10.9
550	304	St Helena	342½	+3½	...	11.7	∞
2112	1000	Southvaal	1050	+46	...	5.0	20.0
464	42½	Stilfontein	46½	...	...	4.3	...
296	139	Unisel	160	-1	...	1.3	15.1
4787	2525	Vaal Reefs	3162	-34	...	6.8	5.6
67	22	Ventersport	32	...	...	...	...
337	210	Welkom	277	...	...	7.0	...
139	54	Western Areas	66	...	...	...	...
2637	1200	Western Deep	1703	...	...	4.7	6.1
259	153	Wstrn Mining	221	+1	...	...	15.2
1104	532	Winkels	583	+1	...	3.4	3.8
133	25	Young Group	45	+6	5.2	15.4	4.2
21	15	Zambia Copper	21	+1	...	...	...
72	40	Zandpan	41	...	...	8.3	12.0

MOTORS, AIRCRAFT

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
133	60	Appleyard	99	...	7.8	10.5	11.5
140	65	Bletchley Mtr	139	...	7.8	7.5	9.4
653½	263	Br Aerospace	327 †	-8	25.0	10.2	6.5
403	313	Caffyns	353	...	11.5	4.3	...
135	88	Central Mtr	133 †	...	4.0	4.0	12.5
43	15	Cook (DC)	40	...	1.0	3.4	...
142	36	Cowie (T)	142	+6	4.8	4.7	∞
121	76	Dag Motors	116	-1	5.7	6.6	11.4
110	70	Davnprt Vern	110 †	+2	4.0	4.8	∞
196	112	Dowty	118	-1	9.2	10.4	18.0
208	113	ERF	165	...	5.0	4.0	...
216	115	FR Group	214	+1	6.3	4.0	10.6
2325	1300	Ford Motor	2112 †	-34	...	...	...
2312	1650	General Mtr	2162	...	$1.6	4.4	...
716	439	Honda Motor	641	...	...	0.9	...
45	26	Jacks (Wm)	27	...	...	...	...
86	41	Jessups	84	-1	4.5	7.1	...
200	69	Kwik-Fit	191	-2	2.7	1.9	15.8
243	118	Lex Service	231	...	15.3	...	...
118	68	Lookers	113	-1	6.2	7.6	39.1
173	101	Lucas	117	+1	7.0	8.0	11.0
14	9	March Gp	10 #	...	...	...	...
196	87	Pendragon	188	...	...	3.8	16.6
189	100	Perry Gp	152	...	9.0	7.9	15.7
73	36	Plaxton Group	57	...	4.5	...	6.5
78	43	Quicks Group	70	+1	3.0	...	7.7
179	118	Rolls-Royce	150	+4	7.2	6.7	79.8
24	13½	Trimoco	17½	...	1.4	10.7	...
148	65	Vardy (Reg)	147	...	3.6	3.3	16.6
147	99	Westland	100	...	4.0	5.3	5.3

NEWSPAPERS, PUBLISHERS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
104	23	Adscene	95 †	...	2.0	2.8	18.2
303	196	BPP	210	...	...	4.0	13.6
275	137	Barbour Index	240	...	6.6	3.7	16.7
510	340	Black (A&C)	340	...	13.0	5.1	26.0
463	190	Blenheim Gp	435	...	7.8	2.4	19.8
326	210	Bristol	291	...	11.5	5.3	24.9
7025	4100	Daily Mail	7025	+25	119	2.3	21.7
6925	3700	Daily Mail 'A'	6925	+25	119	2.3	21.4
268	179	EMAP	257	-1	6.9	3.6	19.9
613	338	Euromoney Pb	605	...	22.5	5.0	18.3
112½	25	Gardner (DC)	34	...	3.7	...	5.1
178	105	Haynes Pub	165 †	+5	2.5	2.0	15.4
181	116	Headline	180 †	...	3.0	2.2	∞
205	160	Home Counts	181	...	8.2	6.1	9.6
6½	1	Ind Bus Comm	4½	+½	...	...	...
18	8	Int Crn & Data	11	...	...	...	...
340	213	Independent	330	...	...	5.0	13.6
298	158	Johnston Press	293	...	5.0	2.3	16.9
241	1	Maxwell Cm	35 #	...	15.0	...	...
208	106	Metal Bulletin	208	...	7.4	4.9	∞
130	86	Mirror Gp	125 #	...	...	7.0	11.2
791	134	News Corp	765	+2	...	0.6	13.0
358	85	News Intl	336	+1	4.7	1.9	...
819	590	Pearson	818	+4	23.2	3.8	18.7
370	225	Portsmth Sund	370	...	8.2	3.0	14.9
563	343	Reed Int	537	+4	15.0	3.7	21.2
74	44	Southnews	63	...	0.8	...	...
77	18	Sterling Pub	40	...	2.5	...	12.0
875	715	Thomson Corp	785	...	25.2	4.3	13.3
272	179	Trinity Intl	271	...	8.0	3.9	12.6
145	33	Unit Group	50	+4	...	...	...
418	278	Utd Nwspprs	370	+5	21.0	7.6	15.6

OILS, GAS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
18	11½	Aberdeen Pet	17	-½	...	...	17.3
40	13	Aran Energy	15	...	...	...	...
7½	2	Atlantic Res	2½	...	...	...	...
39	13½	Aus Oil & Gas	38½	...	...	...	...
900	180	Aviva Pet	181	+1	...	...	...
12	5	Blystad	6	...	...	...	16.0
235	140	Br Borneo	140	-3	...	6.8	6.0
294½	216	British Gas	251½	...	...	7.3	9.0
361	250	Br Petroleum	262 †	-3	16.8	8.5	34.1
4½	1½	Bula Resources	2½	...	...	...	...
614	457	Burmah Castrl	523	-1	23.0	5.9	12.1
270	48	Cairn Energy	48	-1	...	...	22.5
259	183	Calor Gp	191	-1	12.0	8.4	7.7
14	7½	Caspen Oil	7½	...	...	...	...
159	54½	Clyde Pet	54½	-1½	1.2	3.1	13.7
97	47	Conroy Pet	56	-2	...	...	...
65	17	Crossroads Oil	18	-2	...	...	18.8
19	15	Edin Oil & Gas	15	...	...	...	...
618	387	Enterprise	387	-5	15.0	5.2	16.2
82	20	Exp Co Louis	37	-2	...	...	...
30½	12	Fairhaven Intl	24½	+1	...	0.5	13.2
14	4	Floridian	9½	...	...	...	...
96	50	Goal Pet	54	-1	1.1	2.7	13.5
145	5	Gt Western Res	22	+1	...	...	...
215	108	Hardy O & G	117	-3	...	...	15.9
20	12	Kelt Energy	12	...	...	...	...
397	195	LASMO	207	-1	8.5	5.5	11.2
185	158	-do- Units	160	...	25.8	21.5	...
140	25	Mid Sea Res	27	-1	...	...	...
45½	29½	Monument	31½	...	...	...	20.9
21½	11	New London	15½	...	...	...	...
36½	26	Nth Sea Assets	32½	-½	...	...	9.2
36	20	Oil Search	34	+1	...	...	...
50	27	Petrocon	35	...	1.2	4.8	4.2
14	6	Petrox	10½	...	...	...	...
119	65	Pict Pet	65	-1	...	...	5.3
58	22	Premier	22½	-½	...	...	9.8
310	188	Presidio	188	...	...	3.0	...
493	313	Ranger	403	-5	...	1.2	...
4912	3231	Royal Dtch Ft	4450	...	...	5.6	∞
4262	2937	Schlumberger	3225 †	...	...	2.1	...
546	419	Shell	442 †	-3	20.9	6.3	∞
5	2	Target Res	4	...	...	...	...
34	13	Teredo	13	...	...	...	...
114	47	Triton Europe	48	-2	...	...	10.9
197	102	Woodside	172	+1	...	1.3	52.0
7	1½	XCL Sunrise	3	...	...	...	...

Portfolio PLATINUM

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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
148	76	API	144	...	...	6.9	41.8
21	11	ATA Selection	13	...	1.0	10.3	...
292	168	Arjo Wiggins	248	+1	8.3	4.5	11.6
393	175	Abbott Mead	393	...	7.8	2.6	16.8
9	1½	Aegis Group	2	-½	0.4	...	...
15½	10	Addison Cons	14½#	...	...	1.4	∞
244	100	Aegis Gp	113	-1	5.8	6.9	4.4
177	85	Aspen Comm	141	...	8.1	7.7	11.5
25	10	BBB Design	10	...	...	...	...
116	76	BNB Res	91	...	4.6	6.7	8.5
210	110	Bemrose	185	...	11.7	8.5	8.4
78	29	Birkdale	47	...	...	...	...
108	54	Bunzl	82	+1	5.9	...	14.3
164	83	CIA Gp	155	...	3.2	2.8	12.0
58	35	City of Lon	44	...	3.0	9.4	9.9
75	36	Clarke Hooper	36	...	4.4	16.3	12.8
108	54	Colorgraphic	54	...	6.8	...	6.2
2	1½	Craton Lodge	2	...	...	...	...
191	123	Cropper (James)	169	...	2.9	2.3	16.6
60	22	Crown Comm	28	...	...	...	...
53	20	Delyn Packaging	34	+1	1.4	5.7	7.9
165	81	Dolphin Pack	133	-2	4.3	4.3	11.6
107	84	Dudley Jenkins	84 †	...	4.0	6.3	35.8
138	92	EW Fact	107	...	3.8	4.8	11.6
86	37	Fairway Lon	67	...	3.1	6.5	8.1
287	181	Ferguson Intl	220	...	12.5	7.6	10.1
33	21	Filofax	28	...	...	...	...
61	29	Fitch-RS	45	...	1.5	...	27.8
103	65	Gibbon Lyons	65	...	6.0	12.3	10.4
226	63	Geld Greenless	234	...	8.3	4.9	10.3
91	26	Goodhead	46	...	0.5	...	...
20	11	Humerprint	15	...	...	...	...
4½	1	JMD Group	2½	-½	...	...	...
80	31	Lopex	45	...	4.0	...	4.7
285	160	More O'Ferrall	244	...	13.2	7.5	∞
84	32	NMC Group	33	...	3.5	14.3	8.5
125	67	Olive Hldgs	112	...	9.0	10.7	...
98	72	Osborne & Little	75	...	4.3	7.7	9.7
149	87	Quarto	145	...	4.8	4.5	8.7
278	175	St Ives Gp	270	+2	5.0	2.5	19.1
31	9½	Saatchi 10p	16½	...	...	...	...
43	6	Serif Cowells	6	...	2.0	...	3.4
145	28	Shandwick	29	...	...	17.4	1.8
50	36	Shelton (Mrs)	40	...	1.7	5.8	8.4
375	244	Smith David	280	...	9.5	4.6	11.1
670	425	Smurfit (Jeff)	659	...	...	1.0	11.4
205	106	Usher Walker	164	...	...	4.5	22.5
83	43	VTR	54	...	3.4	8.4	10.5
231	31	WPP	91	-1	...	...	2.5
285	98	Wace	115	...	8.2	9.6	5.9
215	131	Waddington (J)	180	...	7.9	5.9	12.9
420	294	Watmough	408	...	...	3.4	18.0
10	1½	Waverley Cam	1½	...	...	...	...
6½	3	Westport	3½	...	...	...	12.5
43	26	Whitney Mck	31	...	2.0	...	6.1

PROPERTY

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
4½	2	Abaco Group	3¼	...	...	...	...
100	75	Allied Lon	75	...	3.5	6.3	41.7
90	55	Arcadian	63	...	...	...	...
106	60	Asda	61	...	1.8	4.0	43.3
2450	1725	BCE	2325	-12	...	...	...
48	21	BHH Group	22	...	1.0	...	...
500	325	Bilton (P)	443	...	17.4	5.2	17.5
85	35	Boorne End	35	...	2.0	...	...
152	115	Bradford	152	+2	3.7	3.2	13.7
88	25	Bredero	25	...	2.4	...	3.2
333	214	Br Land	214	-9	5.7	3.6	19.5
212	151	Brixton	151	-1	7.1	6.3	12.8
52	35	Burford	49	...	0.8	2.3	28.3
353	165	Cap & Counties	165	...	10.0	8.3	∞
135	106	Cap & Regnl	125	...	0.9	1.0	...
325	190	Cardiff Prop	200	...	2.4	1.6	...
640	310	Chesterfield	318	+3	18.5	7.8	...
59	27	Chrisie	37	...	...	...	...
60	23	Clarke Nickolls	23	...	0.7	4.3	32.4
92	20	Clayform	23	...	2.0	...	...
885	720	Daejan	848	...	24.0	3.8	13.7
11½	1½	Dares Estates	3	...	0.2	...	...
130	63	Debenham Twsn	63	...	6.0	...	13.3
18	4	De Morgan	4½	...	...	...	...
158	120	Dencora	128	...	5.5	5.7	...
715	390	Derwent Hldgs	390	-23	8.2	2.8	...
275	213	Estates Agency	213	...	...	3.2	23.6
130	83	Estates Gen	85	...	3.7	5.9	35.3
145	93	Evans Of Leeds	130	...	3.7	3.8	15.5
40	19	Five Oaks	27	...	...	...	...
75	43	Fletcher King	44	...	2.3	...	11.6
378	279	Frogmore	308	...	13.8	6.0	31.1
195	90	Grainger	121	...	5.2	5.8	23.7
255	151	Gt Portland	158	-1	10.0	8.4	14.2
397	45	Greycoat	47	-1	5.2	14.8	...
82½	46	HK Land	82½	...	...	5.6	14.0
70	36	Hambro Cntyw	42	...	0.0	0.2	...
713	463	Hammerson	463	-5	20.5	5.9	16.1
685	422	-do- 'A'	422	-5	20.5	6.5	14.7
78	13	Hanover Druce	17 #	...	...	...	...
220	121	Helical Bar	124	-1	10.0	10.8	40.0
32	25	Hemingway	29	...	...	...	...
190	142	Herring Baker	169	...	6.5	5.1	8.7
250	180	Jermyn	180	...	3.0	2.2	37.6
565	423	Land Sec	423	-6	19.7	6.2	13.2
84	67	Lon Merch Sec	76	...	3.6	6.3	11.0
8½	1½	Lon & Metro	2½	...	...	...	...
20½	3	Lon Securities	3	...	...	...	...
556	335	MEPC	335	-2	20.0	8.0	10.7
30	4½	McInerney	5	...	...	...	...
165	130	McKay Secs	135	...	6.4	6.3	11.3
43	15	Marlsbarth	15	...	...	...	...
243	105	Merivale Mre	105	-5	10.5	13.3	9.5
8	2	Merlin Intl	5 #	...	...	...	...
49	28	Moorfield Est	34 †	...	0.1	0.4	...
100	6	Mountleigh	7	...	...	...	...
1115	815	Mountview	950	...	15.0	2.1	8.6
17	5	Mowat	5	...	0.5	...	27.3
140	104	Mucklow (A&J)	132	...	5.6	5.7	18.5
53	33	New Cavendish	53	...	...	...	∞
65	18	Osory Est	18	...	4.2	...	5.3
143	88	Power Corp	88	...	...	8.3	9.3
123	84	Prop Security	103	...	...	4.0	33.6
1½	½	Property Trust	...	+½	...	...	...
3½	1½	Raglan	1½	...	...	...	10.2
103½	38	Regalian	38	-3	...	15.4	4.5
112	4	Rosebaugh	6½	...	...	...	...
172	150	Rowlinson Secs	162	...	1.3	1.1	13.3
28	13	St Modwen Prp	17	...	0.5	4.5	9.6
63	28	Savills	34	...	...	...	...
176	55	Scot Met	68	...	4.4	8.6	43.4
127	50	Shaftesbury	76	...	...	...	...
23	9	Shield	9	...	...	...	...
41	21	Sinclair Gldsm	21	...	2.0	...	...
284	196	Slough Estates	196	-1	11.3	7.7	9.5
113	75	Southend Prop	76	...	3.8	6.7	...
163	7	Speyhawk	15	...	3.5	...	...
128	20	Stanhope Prps	30	...	...	...	...
89	64	Town Centre	77	-2	2.8	4.8	16.8
66	48	Trafford Park	60	...	2.5	5.7	∞
53	31	Trevian Hldgs	45	...	1.0	3.0	...
203	15	UK Land	23	...	...	...	...
12	4	Union Square	4½	...	...	...	...
247	173	Warner	202 †	...	10.0	6.6	18.9
260	227	Warnford	242 †	...	7.0	3.9	18.6
25	2½	Waterglade	4	...	1.0	...	0.5
173	67	Wates	67	-1	3.7	7.4	14.6
95	30	Wood John D	37	...	1.5	...	...

SHOES, LEATHER

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
53	23	Automagic	26	...	0.5	2.6	...
74	37	Headlam	73	...	...	4.4	24.4
320	183	Lambert	315	...	11.2	4.8	9.0
100	40	Pittard Garnar	80	...	0.2	...	...
41	13½	Strong & Fisher	37	...	...	...	...
285	182	Stylo	184	...	9.0	6.5	34.6

TEXTILES

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
9	1½	Aitch	2½	...	...	...	...
457	313	Allied Text	422	+5	12.3	3.9	∞
83	60	Beckman (A)	69	...	4.7	9.2	10.8
68	37	Bolton Gp	30	...	...	...	...
152	85	Br Mohair	151	...	8.5	7.5	13.3
134	71	CRT Gp	124	...	...	1.6	23.0
73	33	Charnos	34	...	0.7	2.9	2.9
235	163	Claremont Ga	235	...	...	3.9	14.6
470	235	Courtauld Text	470	+5	13.0	3.8	∞
193	135	Dawson	193	+1	9.0	6.2	23.0
48	17	Drummond	41	...	4.9	...	...
80	56	Faupel	73	...	4.9	8.9	7.6
68	36	Foster (John)	54	...	0.5	1.2	...
175	125	Gaskell	126	...	8.5	9.0	6.5
123	64	Hicking Pnost	100½	+½	2.2	3.0	9.8
71	44	Jerome (S)	45	...	2.6	...	8.4
385	220	Lamont	368	...	12.0	4.3	14.7
360	187	Leeds	359	...	9.7	3.6	15.5
66	29	Lister	29	...	0.1	0.5	...
98	37	Lyles (S)	89	...	4.4	6.7	10.5
103	61	Parkland 'A'	78	...	2.5	...	...
75	33	Readicut	75	...	3.4	6.1	15.9
51	15	SEET	41	-1	1.6	...	...
90	36	Sirdar	86	-1	5.1	8.0	17.3
43	25	Stirling Gp	34½	...	1.5	5.8	13.8
54	34½	Stoddard	50	...	2.5	6.7	18.0
293	190	Tomkinsons	266	...	11.5	5.8	20.1
7	4	West Trust	4 †	...	0.2	8.3	11.2
230	140	Yorklyde	220	...	9.7	5.9	8.8

TOBACCOS

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
772	559	BAT	625	...	31.1	6.6	62.6
1198	635	Rothmans 'B'	1079	-2	18.5	2.3	12.8

TRANSPORT

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
405	167	Assoc Br Ports	357	-6	7.2	2.7	15.7
585	326	BAA	560	-3	13.0	3.1	18.9
276	132	Br Airways	268	+1	8.8	4.4	...
237	138	Clarkson (H)	155	...	8.0	6.9	8.7
200	54	Davies Newman	96	...	...	...	...
543	344	Eurotunnel Uts	446	-1	...	...	...
28	8	Eurotunnel War	9½	-½	...	...	...
121	75	Fisher (James)	85	...	5.5	8.6	8.1
108	75	Gracy?	101	...	4.0	5.3	16.1
190	100	Hays	187	...	4.0	2.9	18.5
52	24	Jacobs (JI)	27	...	2.9	...	6.8
167	7	Lep	14½	+4½	7.0	...	1.7
2300	1450	Mnchstr Sh	1450 †	...	4.5	0.4	5.9
236	158	Mersey Docks	216	...	6.0	3.8	∞
247	116	NFC	242	+2	6.2	3.5	19.5
383	277	Ocean Group	344	-3	...	5.5	14.0
52	30	Ocean Wilson	52	+2	2.7	7.1	5.0
595½	364	P & O Dfd	385	+5	30.5	10.6	12.8
118	87	P & O 5%	99	...	...	7.4	...
351	259	Powell Duffryn	285	+1	22.6	10.6	12.9
112	84	Seacon	97 †	...	4.2	5.8	8.1
33	15	Seafield Res	18	...	...	...	1.7
89	38	TIP Europe	52	...	...	4.7	9.7
87	32	TNT	87	...	...	3.7	10.4
551	283	Tibber & Brian	546	...	9.2	2.2	25.1
587	295	Tiphook	381	-9	13.8	4.8	5.7
283	206	Transport Dev	265	...	9.5	4.8	15.3
125	80	Turnbull Scot	80	...	...	...	...

WATER

1991/92 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Net div	Yld %	P/E
409	322	Anglian Water	357	-1	17.5	6.5	7.4
407	327	Northumbrian	392	...	18.6	6.3	5.0
395	322	North West	371	-4	18.0	6.5	6.6
370	296	Severn Trent	349	-1	17.5	6.7	5.4
397	293	Sthn Water	336	-2	17.7	7.0	5.6
392	302	South West	361	-4	20.0	7.4	5.5
397	323	Thames Water	375	-4	17.5	6.2	7.7
422	341	Welsh Water	385	+2	10.5	6.8	4.6
456	325	Wessex Water	403	-5	17.7	5.9	6.4
431	335	Yorkshire W	389	-5	17.7	6.1	7.0

Source: Firstat

♦ USM; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; † Ex rights issue; ↓ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; ∞ Figures or report awaited; ... No significant data.

BRITISH FUNDS

SHORTS (under 5 years)

1991/2 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
98[31/64]	91[1/64]	Treas 3% 1992	98[31/64]	...	3.04	7.88
99¾	95[15/16]	Treas 8% 1992	99¾	+[1/32]	8.02	10.19
100[7/32]	98½	Treas 10½% 1992	100	...	10.50	10.23
102[7/16]	100¾	Exch 12¼% 1992	100[3/32]	-[1/32]	12.13	10.12
104¾	101½	Exch 13½% 1992	101¾ †	-[1/16]	13.27	10.09
96[7/16]	89¾	Fund 6% 1993	96[7/16] †	...	6.23	9.62
98[1/16]	94	Treas 8¼% 1993	98¾	-[1/16]	8.35	9.59
100¾	97[7/32]	Treas 10% 1993	100[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.98	9.72
104¾	102¾	Treas 12½% 1993	103¾	-[1/16]	12.09	9.75
108[7/32]	105[3/16]	Treas 13¾% 1993	106[1/16]	-[1/32]	12.95	9.70
98½	92[11/16]	Treas 8½% 1994	98[1/16]	-[1/16]	8.65	9.54
99¾	93	Treas 9% 1994	98[17/32]	-[1/16]	9.12	9.56
101[11/32]	96[11/32]	Treas 10% 1994	100[7/16]	-[1/32]	9.93	9.63
107½	103¼	Exch 12½% 1994	105[5/16]	-[1/32]	11.80	9.74
109	105[9/32]	Exch 13½% 1994	107	-[1/16]	12.62	9.36
111¾	106[9/32]	Treas 14½% 1994	108[7/32]	-[1/16]	13.38	9.75
89	82¼	Gas 3% 1990-95	88¼	-[1/16]	3.38	6.94
102[1/16]	96[3/32]	Exch 10¼% 1995	101[3/16]	-[1/16]	10.09	9.61
106[7/16]	102¾	Treas 12% 1995	105[7/16]	-[1/16]	11.37	9.72
110[1/16]	105¾	Treas 12¾% 1995	109[3/16]	-[1/16]	11.68	9.60

MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)

1991/2 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
100	92[11/16]	Treas 9% 1992-96	99¾ †	-[1/16]	9.02	9.05
102[5/16]	95[7/16]	Conv 10% 1996	101[3/16]	-[1/16]	9.88	9.66
112[7/16]	108	Exch 13¼% 1996	111[5/16]	-[1/16]	11.90	9.84
114[7/16]	108[1/16]	Treas 14% 1996	112[3/16]	-[1/16]	12.48	9.87
119[3/16]	115[11/16]	Treas 15¼% 1996	117[5/16]	-[1/16]	12.95	9.90
97[7/16]	89[1/16]	Treas 8¾% 1997	96[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.07	9.56
104½	97¾	Exch 10½% 1997	103[1/16]	-½	10.16	9.62
114[3/16]	108[11/16]	Treas 13¼% 1997	113	-[1/16]	11.73	9.79
123[1/16]	117	Exch 15% 1997	121[11/32]	-[1/16]	12.36	9.93
90¾	80¾	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	88¾	-[1/16]	7.61	9.16
101[17/32]	93[11/32]	Exch 9¾% 1998	100[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.70	9.62
112[3/16]	104¾	Exch 12% 1998	110[3/16]	-[1/16]	10.83	9.74
128¾	121¾	Treas 15½% 1998	126[1/16]	-[1/16]	12.22	9.82
101¾	92[11/16]	Treas 9½% 1999	100[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.49	9.44
104¼	95[1/16]	Conv 10¼% 1999	103[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.92	9.61
105[5/16]	97¾	Treas 10½% 1999	104¼	-[1/16]	10.06	9.62
114[1/16]	105[3/16]	Exch 12¼% 1999	112[1/16] †	-[1/16]	10.88	9.74
99[1/16]	89¾	Conv 9% 2000	97[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.22	9.40
119[3/16]	110¾	Treas 13% 2000	117[1/16]	-[1/16]	11.03	9.80
104[1/16]	94[1/16]	Treas 10% 2001	102[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.75	9.58
120[1/16]	113[1/16]	Treas 14% 1998-01	118[1/16]	-[1/16]	11.82	9.92
103[1/16]	92[1/16]	Treas 9¾% 2002	101[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.62	9.52
105[1/16]	94[1/16]	Treas 10% 2003	103[1/16] †	-[1/16]	9.68	9.49
63[1/16]	53[1/16]	Fund 3½% 1999-04	61[1/16]	-[1/16]	5.69	8.57
102[1/16]	90[1/16]	Conv 9½% 2004	100	...	9.50	9.47
112[1/16]	102	Treas 11½% 2001-04	110¾ †	-[1/16]	10.42	9.56
102[1/16]	90[1/16]	Conv 9½% 2005	100[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.48	9.45
122[1/16]	111	Treas 12½% 2003-05	120[1/16]	-[1/16]	10.41	9.58

LONGS (over 15 years)

1991/2 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
90[1/16]	79[1/16]	Treas 8% 2002-06	88[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.04	9.46
95	84[1/16]	Treas 8½% 2007	92¾	-¼	9.15	9.36
116¾	105[1/16]	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	114¾	-[1/16]	10.27	9.56
99¾	88[1/16]	Treas 9% 2008	97¾	-[1/16]	9.27	9.31
130[1/16]	118[1/16]	Treas 13½% 2004-08	127[1/16] †	-[1/16]	10.58	9.36
90[1/16]	80	Treas 8% 2009	88[1/16] †	-[1/16]	9.03	9.31
99[1/16]	88[1/16]	Conv 9% 2011	97[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.27	9.30
67¼	58[1/16]	Treas 5½% 2008-12	65[1/16] †	...	8.39	9.27
87¾	76[1/16]	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	85[1/16]	...	9.11	9.33
127[1/16]	113[1/16]	Exch 12% 2013-17	124[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.65	9.34

UNDATED

1991/2 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
26[1/16]	23½	Consols 2½%	25[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.65	...
26½	23[1/16]	Treas 2½%	25¾ †	-[1/16]	9.76	...
31½	28¼	Treas 3%	30¾ †	-[1/16]	9.80	...
61[1/16]	57¼	Conv 3½%	60[1/16] †	-[1/16]	5.81	...
42[1/16]	37[1/16]	Consols 4%	41[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.69	...
38[1/16]	33[1/16]	War Ln 3½%	36[1/16]	-[1/16]	9.47	...

INDEX-LINKED

1991/2 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
124[1/16]	115[1/16]	Treas IL 2% 1994	124¼	+[1/16]	2.20	3.34
181[1/16]	168[1/16]	Treas IL 2% 1996	181[1/16]	-[1/16]	3.02	3.60
147¾	137[1/16]	Treas IL 2½% 2001	146[1/16] †	-[1/16]	3.87	4.17
142[1/16]	133	Treas IL 2½% 2003	142[1/16]	-[1/16]	4.00	4.26
144	135	Treas IL 2% 2006	142[1/16]	-[1/16]	4.14	4.35
131½	124[1/16]	Treas IL 2½% 2009	129[1/16]	-[1/16]	4.20	4.39
135[1/16]	128[1/16]	Treas IL 2½% 2011	133[1/16] †	-[1/16]	4.20	4.38
111[1/16]	105[1/16]	Treas IL 2½% 2013	109[1/16]	-[1/16]	4.21	4.37
118[1/16]	113[1/16]	Treas IL 2½% 2016	116[1/16]	-[1/16]	4.20	4.36
113[1/16]	109[1/16]	Treas IL 2½% 2020	111½	-[1/16]	4.21	4.34
95¼	90[1/16]	Treas IL 2½% 2024	92½	-[1/16]	4.20	4.32

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
ABBEY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 80 Holdenhurst Rd, Bournemouth BH8 8AL. 0345 717373				
Mastertrust	89.03	96.18	-0.36	2.47
International	63.54	67.59	...	1.21
Dividend Gth	47.54	50.57	...	5.93
Global Gth Sct	53.57	56.98	...	2.74
Ethical Growth	53.25	58.77	...	2.89
High Inc Equity	128.00	136.10	...	6.25
Worldwide Bond	220.60	233.90†	...	0.08
Gilt Fixed Int	117.10	124.20†	...	8.33
ABTRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 10 Queens Terrace, Aberdeen AB9 1QJ. 0224 633070. Dealing: 0800 833580. 30 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7QQ. 071 374 6801				
Amer Inc Gth	31.76	33.63	+0.20	2.36
European	71.53	75.87†	+0.18	0.30
European Inc	72.22	76.19†	+0.07	1.61
Exempt	808.30	837.90	-6.80	4.87
Euro Inc	35.63	38.02†	-0.75	6.38
F East Emerg Ec	55.85	59.89	+0.93	1.07
ALLIED DUNBAR UNIT TRUSTS Allied Dunbar Centre, Swindon, SN1 1EL. 0793 514514. Dealing 0793 610366				
High Inc	317.50	338.10†	-7.30	5.82
Equity Inc	182.50	194.30	-0.10	5.35
High Yield	198.40	211.20	+0.10	5.48
Balanced	551.00	586.80	-4.80	3.45
American Inc	35.52	37.82†	+0.24	4.02
Wld Asset Val	31.33	33.36	-0.20	1.38
Japan	123.70	130.80†	-4.10	0.01
Secs of Am	349.90	371.30	-1.90	0.05
BL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD PO Box 128, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4PN. 081 663 3030				
European Gth	85.87	91.83	+0.48	1.50
1992 Euro Sp Op	63.67	68.08	+0.42	0.83
International Inc	69.28	73.70	+0.41	0.60
N American Gth	56.29	60.19	-0.12	0.59
Pacific Growth	69.18	73.98	+0.02	1.08
UK Growth Acc	81.13	86.76	-0.01	2.07
UK Growth Dist	71.20	76.14	...	2.37
UK Income	57.79	61.80	+0.18	5.06
BARCLAYS UNICORN Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, London E7. 081 534 5544				
Capital	91.30	97.91†	-0.18	3.59
Euro Gth Inc	100.60	106.70	-0.10	1.67
Extra Inc	92.06	98.46	+0.26	6.84
General	203.10	217.20	-0.40	4.11
Gilt Fxd Inc	53.25	55.15†	-0.46	10.12
Income	404.00	432.10†	+0.60	6.31
BARING FUND MANAGERS PO Box 156, Beckenham, Kent BR3 4XQ. 081 658 9002				
American Gth	73.20	77.43	-0.94	0.30
Amer Smllr Cos	88.14	93.90	-0.28	...
Australia	63.28	67.93	+1.48	2.10
Convertibles	46.54	49.77	+0.04	8.30
Eastern	145.60	156.70	+2.40	1.80
Equity Income	*66.10*	*78.31*	*-0.54*	*7.40*
European Gth	192.20	203.90	+0.30	2.20
Euro Smllr Cos	149.20	158.80	+0.40	1.40
Exempt	70.05	72.16†	...	4.00
German Growth	50.11	53.32	+0.59	1.10
Global Growth	87.43	93.36	-0.14	1.50
Japan Growth	139.00	148.80	-0.70	...
Japan Sunrise	115.50	123.20	-0.80	...
Portfolio	99.43	103.50†	-0.10	3.60
-do- Acc	171.60	178.50	-0.30	3.60
UK Growth	58.08	61.78	-0.13	4.10
UK Smaller Cos	70.21	75.09	+0.26	2.20
Select Managers	54.60	58.08	+0.14	2.30
BRITANNIA LIFE UNIT MANAGERS LTD 190 West George St, Glasgow G2 2PA. 041 332 3132				
Balan Gth Acc	85.45	91.39	+0.04	3.00
-do- Inc	79.79	85.33	+0.03	3.00
Global Bond	23.75	25.40	+0.20	4.34
High Yield Acc	41.17	44.04	-0.61	5.19
-do- Inc	31.57	33.77	-0.47	5.19
Income Gth Acc	57.68	61.69	+0.04	5.71
-do- Inc	40.05	42.84	+0.03	5.71
Service Co Acc	69.93	74.79	+0.85	2.26
-do- Inc	65.85	70.43	+0.80	2.26
Amer Gth Acc	42.28	45.22	+0.25	0.63
-do- Inc	41.46	44.34†	+0.25	0.63
Euro Gth Acc	26.51	28.35	+0.03	1.74
-do- Inc	25.78	27.58	+0.03	1.74
Mngd P folio	27.07	28.95	+0.08	0.22
BROWN SHIPLEY 9/17 Perrymount Rd, Haywards Heath. 0444 458144				
Financial	90.98	96.89†	-0.32	4.88
Smaller Cos Acc	197.10	209.90	+1.80	...
Smaller Cos Inc	117.10	124.70	+1.10	1.85
High Inc	56.37	60.32†	-1.65	7.25
Income	94.51	100.90	-0.30	5.37
Mngd P folio Inc	78.76	83.88†	+0.23	2.48
-do- Acc	146.20	155.70	+0.40	...
North American	89.93	95.78	+1.30	0.23
Orient	83.76	90.11	-2.42	...
Recovery	29.15	31.06	-0.28	3.80
German	37.45	40.12	+0.36	0.10
Intl Recov	29.70	31.63	-0.05	0.25
European Inc	21.08	22.70	-0.05	0.50
Conv Oriental	16.68	17.76†	-0.03	10.72
BUCKMASTER MANAGEMENT Beaufort House, 15 St Botolph Street, London EC3A 7JJ. 071 247 4542. Dealing: 071 247 7474				
Fellowship Tst	50.82	53.87	+0.14	2.95
-do- Acc	55.45	36.78	-1.86	2.95
Income Fund 5	167.50	178.20	+0.10	5.62
-do- Acc	362.30	385.50	+0.10	5.62
Inv Portfolio	35.46	37.40	-0.23	2.75
-do- Acc	61.24	63.38	-0.26	2.75
Smaller Cos	102.40	109.00	...	3.36
-do- Acc	119.30	127.00	...	3.36
High Inc P folio	47.33	49.05	-0.22	5.88
BURRAGE UT MANAGEMENT LTD 117 Fenchurch St, London EC3M 5AL. 071 480 7216				
Sht Gilt Fxd Int	61.98	62.84†	-3.09	6.60
CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD PO Box 105, Manchester M60 0AH. 061 837 5060				
Environ	110.60	117.70	+0.50	2.13
UK Growth	119.80	127.50†	-0.50	2.68
UK Income	103.80	110.50	+0.30	5.74
CANNON FUND MANAGERS 1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB. 081 902 8876				
SE Asia	58.10	62.14	+0.42	1.46
Growth	39.70	42.46	-0.20	3.63
Income	45.26	48.41	-0.01	6.03
Far East	36.32	38.84	-0.75	0.79
North American	64.61	69.47	-1.84	0.01
Global	66.01	70.60†	-0.73	0.99
European	58.53	62.60†	+0.44	1.24
Japan	82.19	87.90	-1.37	0.01
Intl Currency Bd	48.40	51.31	+0.53	7.36
UK Cap Gwth	66.20	70.80	+2.27	1.93
CAPEL-CURE MYERS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 35 Fountain Street, Manchester M2 2AF. Enquiries: 061 236 5685. Dealing: 061 236 5362				
Capability Trusts				
American Gen	100.60	107.10	+0.80	0.37
-do- Acc	106.90	113.80	+0.80	0.37
European	60.79	64.46	+0.22	1.11
-do- Acc	62.59	66.37	+0.23	1.11
Far East Gen	44.48	47.32†	-0.39	...
-do- Acc	44.48	47.32	-0.39	...
Glenfriars	223.60	237.90†	+4.30	2.21
-do- Acc	249.80	265.80	+4.90	2.21
Growth	317.00	339.10†	-2.20	2.50
-do- Acc	529.00	565.80	-3.90	2.50

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income Growth	312.30	332.30†	-1.10	5.25
-do- Acc	397.20	422.60	-1.40	5.25
Master Portfolio	8485.0	8902.0	-21.00	2.75
-do- Acc	9543.0	10012.0	-24.00	2.75
Special Sits	72.08	76.69	+0.02	2.50
-do- Acc	82.43	87.70	+0.03	2.50
Exempt Fund				
High Yield	996.10	1027.0	-4.00	5.87
-do- Acc	1102.0	1137.0	-4.00	5.87
CAPEL (JAMES) UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 3 Harbour Exchange Square, London E14 9GJ. 071 955 5050. Dealing 071 955 5055				
American Index	*152.70*	*162.10†*	*-1.50*	*1.90*
Capital	454.10	484.60	.00	3.88
European Index	114.80	121.80†	.30	1.77
Euro Gth	75.24	80.09	-0.47	1.85
Far East Growth	65.41	69.80	-0.53	0.85
Global Bond	20.36	21.45	+0.12	6.41
Hong Kong	47.06	50.22†	-0.39	2.27
Income	425.60	454.20	-1.10	5.75
Intl Growth	61.61	65.62	-0.54	1.35
Japan Growth	180.60	192.70	-6.50	...
Japan Smllr Cos	25.64	27.36†	-1.23	...
Japan Index	54.17	57.81†	-1.23	0.39
Nth American	329.50	351.50	-0.30	1.55
S pore Mly Gth	35.16	37.52	-0.24	...
Tiger Index	102.70	109.60	+0.50	1.10
Triple Index	89.70	95.73†	...	4.55
UK Index	106.40	113.50	-1.10	4.18
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 16 Tokenhouse Yard, London EC2R 7AN. 071 606 0708				
American P folio	62.58	66.94	+0.51	1.65
European P folio	64.77	69.15	+0.39	1.16
Japanese P folio	41.68	44.33	-0.49	...
Pacific P folio	71.96	77.38	+1.05	2.65
Cazenove P folio	58.27	62.33	+0.09	3.42
UK Income Gth	55.01	59.16	-0.17	6.41
CENTRAL BOARD OF FINANCE OF CHURCH OF ENGLAND 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ. 071 588 1815				
Investment Fd	533.20	537.65	+5.45	5.41
Fixed Int	144.35	144.60	+0.80	10.03
Deposit	104.5	...	...	...
CHARITIES OFFICIAL INVESTMENT FUND 2 Fore Street, London EC2Y 5AQ. 071 588 1815				
Income	515.89	521.06	+1.55	5.68
-do- Acc	1936.4	1936.4	+23.78	...
Deposit	104.5	...	...	...
Fxd Int Inc	117.60	117.84	+1.26	9.84
-do- Acc	139.70	139.98	+2.51	...
CITY FINANCIAL UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 1 White Hart Yard, London Bridge, SE1. 071 407 5966				
City Fin Assets	53.58	56.40	...	2.76
Beckman Intl	64.44	66.25	...	5.17
Ritson Hse Inc	160.40	170.00	...	3.63
Prism Hse Cap	206.10	218.40†	...	2.80
COMMERCIAL UT MANAGERS St Helens, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ. Enquiries: 081 681 2222. Dealing: 081 686 9818				
American Gth	85.06	90.49	+0.50	0.30
European Gth	79.08	84.13	-0.28	1.23
Far East Gth	73.51	78.20	+0.43	0.41
Japan Gth Acc	31.02	33.00	-0.44	...
Managed	*53.15*	*56.54*	*+0.11*	*3.75*
-do- Acc	62.18	66.14	+0.14	3.75
Mthly Inc Plus	40.14	42.70	-1.55	10.17
Smaller Cos	28.03	29.82†	+0.10	2.64
-do- Acc	30.84	32.81	+0.11	2.64
UK General	60.39	64.24	-0.06	3.13
-do- Acc	70.41	74.90	-0.05	3.13
Wwide Bd	50.42	53.64†	-0.76	4.90
-do- Acc	61.67	65.61	+0.48	4.90
Wwide Sp Sits	44.63	47.73	-0.30	0.38
-do- Acc	46.30	49.52	-0.32	0.38
Quilter General	105.01	111.71	-1.56	3.13
-do- Acc	112.84	120.04	-1.67	3.13
Quilter Income	79.30	84.36†	+0.42	4.97
-do- Acc	92.64	98.55	+0.50	4.97
Quilter Intl	103.79	110.41	+0.21	...
-do- Acc	104.74	111.43	+0.22	...
Quilter UK Spec	66.61	70.86	-0.45	4.56
-do- Acc	85.97	91.46	-0.58	4.56
CU Prestige Fund Management				
Fin Property	79.61	84.69	-0.75	4.05
Fixed Conv	34.24	36.43†	...	9.03
-do- Acc	83.82	89.17	...	9.03
Equity Inc	123.70	131.60†	+0.69	5.20
-do- Acc	373.89	397.75	+2.04	5.20
High Yield	98.16	104.43†	-1.59	6.96
-do- Acc	350.92	373.32	-1.07	6.96
Preference	39.60	42.13	+0.06	9.46
-do- Acc	186.48	198.38	+0.26	9.46
PPT Europe	131.80	140.30	-0.57	1.09
PPT Global Bnd	64.68	68.81	+0.67	4.55
PPT Gold Com	43.93	46.73	+0.12	...
PPT Thai	40.36	42.94	+1.29	0.96
PPT Hong Kong	62.75	66.76	-0.21	1.61
PPT Japan	88.45	94.10	-2.40	...
PPT N Amer	119.01	126.61	+0.79	...
PPT S'pore Mly	76.08	80.94	-1.59	...
PPT UK	102.64	109.19	+1.34	2.90
PPT Cash	85.73	85.73	+0.11	9.91
EFM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 4 Melville Crescent, Edinburgh. 0345 090 526				
American	88.77	94.32	+0.17	...
Capital	139.50	148.20	+1.30	1.69
Convertibles	21.51	22.85†	-0.33	6.75
Eurofund	35.04	37.05	+0.11	1.08
Mngd Exempt	146.40	152.60	-0.10	3.44
Growth Inc	191.10	203.00†	-0.40	5.79
High Dist	132.60	140.90	-1.60	8.16
International	269.90	286.80	-2.30	1.74
Intl Income	63.14	67.40	-0.26	5.34
Pacific	39.67	42.15	+0.48	0.95
Smllr Jap Cos	54.45	57.75	-1.67	...
Tokyo	149.30	158.50	-2.90	...
Japan Exempt	97.73	100.40	-2.00	0.50
Sm Jap Exempt	456.30	468.80	-12.00	0.11
EAGLE STAR UNIT MANAGERS Bath Road, Cheltenham GL53 7LQ. 0242 577 555				
Oriental Op Acc	62.36	66.34	+0.34	1.28
Japanese Acc	45.90	48.83	-0.91	...
UK Balncd Inc	107.20	114.00	-1.20	3.25
-do- Acc	122.50	130.30	-1.30	3.25
UK Growth Acc	179.10	190.50	-1.50	2.75
UK High Inc	112.10	119.30	+0.60	8.14
-do- Acc	*124.90*	*132.40*	*+0.60*	*8.14*
N America Acc	85.43	90.88	+0.86	0.11
European Acc	118.10	125.60	+0.50	1.27
UK Pref F/I Inc	56.24	59.60	-0.56	8.98
-do- Acc	84.05	89.16	-0.84	8.98
Intl Sp Sits Acc	42.18	44.87	-0.29	0.83
Environmntl Opp	62.21	66.18	+0.09	2.19
ENDURANCE FUND MANAGEMENT 41 Harrington Gardens, London SW7 4JU. 071 373 7261				
Endurance	146.30	155.60	-0.10	1.94
EQUITABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD Walton St, Aylesbury, Bucks, HP21 7QW. 0296 431480				
Pelican	96.90	102.00	-0.33	5.29
High Income	98.99	104.20	+0.43	6.64
Tst of Inv Tsts	109.52	115.28†	-0.05	3.32
Special Sits	86.86	91.43	-0.68	4.13
North American	86.29	90.83	+0.63	0.88
Far Eastern	169.04	177.94	-0.70	1.38
Intl Growth	70.16	73.85†	-3.61	2.37
European	59.32	62.44	+0.05	1.84
Smaller Cos	58.34	61.41	-0.10	3.27

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
EQUITY & LAW St George's Hse, Corporation St, Coventry CV1 1QD. 0203 553231				
UK Growth Acc	261.30	278.00	-1.70	4.05
-do- Inc	193.60	206.00	-1.40	4.05
Higher Inc Acc	436.10	464.00	+0.30	5.86
-do- Inc	282.30	300.40	+0.30	5.86
Gilt/Fxd Int Acc	146.40	154.20†	-1.50	8.74
-do- Inc	81.04	85.94†	-3.73	8.74
Nth America	212.80	226.40	-0.80	...
Far East	213.20	226.90	-4.00	0.49
Europe	208.40	221.80	+0.80	0.51
General Inc	360.10	383.10	-1.70	3.97
-do- Acc	379.80	404.10	-1.90	3.97
Brit Excell	*53.21*	*56.61*	*-1.48*	*4.07*
Brit Fndmtls Inc	54.10	57.56	-1.43	6.70
Brit Fndmtls Acc	65.41	69.59	-1.73	6.70
Global Opps	58.97	62.74	+0.09	0.33
FIDELITY INVESTMENT SERVICES LTD Oakhill House, 130 Tonbridge Rd, Tonbridge TN11 9DZ. 0800 414181				
America	176.30	186.20	+0.50	...
Cash Unit Tst	137.14	137.14	+0.19	10.22
European Inc	100.10	106.80	+2.30	...
FOREIGN & COLONIAL 8th Floor, Exchange Hse, Primrose St, London EC2A 2NY. 071 628 8000				
European	83.34	88.24†	...	1.88
Far Eastern	104.40	111.60	...	...
Ocean Income	74.79	79.93	...	3.00
UK Growth	68.75	73.53	...	1.86
UK Income	87.10	93.16	...	6.31
US Smaller Cos	159.20	170.30	...	...
FRAMLINGTON UNIT MANAGEMENT 155 Bishopsgate, London EC2M 3FT. 071 374 4100				
Am Smllr Co	355.50	383.80	+4.20	...
-do- Acc	363.20	392.10	+4.30	...
Capital	255.80	272.00	+0.80	3.18
-do- Acc	344.00	365.90	+1.20	3.18
Contl Smllr Cos	42.27	45.06	+0.45	0.17
-do- Acc	42.99	45.82	+0.46	0.17
Convertible	102.60	108.70	+0.80	7.69
-do- Acc	179.60	190.30	+1.40	7.69
European	90.16	96.14	+0.26	0.65
-do- Acc	92.62	98.77	+0.27	0.65
Extra Income	240.10	255.30†	+0.70	5.78
-do- Acc	322.30	342.80†	+1.10	5.78
Financial	68.80	73.18	+0.83	1.01
-do- Acc	71.19	75.72	+0.86	1.01
Health Fund Inc	114.80	123.00	+0.10	...
-do- Acc	114.80	123.90	+0.10	...
Income Tst	154.00	163.80	-0.50	5.31
-do- Acc	203.90	216.80	-0.70	5.31
Intl Growth	272.20	290.70	-1.70	...
-do- Acc	302.20	322.80	-1.90	...
Japan Gen	123.10	131.90†	-2.10	...
-do- Acc	124.30	133.20†	-2.20	...
Mngd P folio Inc	78.65	82.78	+0.42	2.03
-do- Acc	79.33	83.50	+0.43	2.03
Monthly Income	*124.30*	*132.40†*	*+0.50*	*5.61*
Recovery	224.40	243.00†	+2.90	0.88
-do- Acc	260.60	282.10†	+3.40	0.88
Smaller Cos	36.64	38.97†	-0.06	3.41
-do- Acc	40.86	43.46†	+0.26	3.41
Gilt Gth Inc	60.17	62.05†	-4.89	4.97
-do- Acc	69.33	71.49†	-1.21	4.97
Gilt Inc Inc	59.34	61.18	-0.83	8.42
-do- Acc	69.82	71.99	-0.97	8.42
FRIENDS PROVIDENT MANAGERS Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts, SP1 3SH. *Dealing: 0722 411411. Admin: 0722 411622*				
Equity Dist	286.89	305.20	-2.05	3.91
-do- Acc	563.07	599.01	-4.02	3.91
Euro Gth Dist	94.44	100.47†	+0.09	0.76
-do- Acc	96.26	102.40†	+0.09	0.76
Fixed Int Dist	118.79	125.65†	-2.82	7.63
-do- Acc	190.68	201.69†	-1.98	7.63
Intl Gth Dist	62.52	66.51	-0.08	0.62
-do- Acc	64.28	68.38	-0.08	0.62
Nth Amer Dist	147.95	157.39	+1.99	0.89
-do- Acc	158.65	168.78	+2.14	0.89
Pac Basin Dist	179.01	190.44	-0.93	0.24
-do- Acc	181.25	192.82	-0.93	0.24
Stewardship Dist	251.40	267.45	-0.85	2.71
-do- Acc	290.62	309.17	-0.98	2.71
Stwd Inc Dist	51.85	55.16†	-0.21	5.21
-do- Acc	61.49	65.42†	-0.24	5.21
N Am Stwd Dist	75.78	80.62	+0.65	0.15
-do- Acc	80.13	85.24	+0.69	0.15
GT UNIT MANAGERS 8th Floor, 8 Devonshire Sq, London EC2M 4YJ. 071 283 2575. Dealing: 071 626 9431				
Am Sp Sits	112.20	120.00	+2.50	...
UK Capital Inc	137.40	147.00†	+1.40	4.33
-do- Acc	228.00	243.90	+2.40	4.34
Uk Spec Sits	53.85	57.60	-0.55	1.98
Income	94.84	101.40†	-3.60	7.80
International	189.80	202.60†	-0.60	1.24
US General	74.56	79.44	+1.02	0.57
Japan General	312.60	331.90	-2.80	...
Far East General	175.00	187.20	-0.70	0.34
European	338.20	358.40†	+4.40	1.09
Germany	89.36	95.04	+1.01	0.42
Intl Income	58.98	62.57	+0.67	5.73
W wide Spec Sits	98.92	105.80	+1.20	0.11
Global Assets In	50.82	54.36	+0.27	2.77
Global Assets Ac	52.50	56.15	+0.28	2.77
Smllr Cos Div	43.21	46.22	+0.51	6.10
GARTMORE FUND MANAGERS Gartmore House, 16/18 Monument Street, London EC3R 8AJ. 071 623 1212. Dealing: 0277 264421. Services: 0800 289 336				
UK Growth Funds				
British Growth	35.75	38.24†	+0.03	2.72
Cash Trust*	119.93	119.93	+0.18	10.57
Pract Inv Inc	88.13	94.51	-0.43	4.17
-do- Acc	181.42	194.55	-0.88	4.17
UK Smaller Cos	98.35	105.47	-0.18	1.77
Income Funds				
Preference Share	21.84	23.36	-0.08	11.00
High Inc	27.80	29.73†	-0.14	7.03
Income	99.79	106.73†	-0.30	4.28
Intl Fxd Inc	24.47	25.75	+0.16	6.17
International Funds				
Gold Intl	60.79	65.19	+0.39	0.38
Euroventures	17.61	18.81	-0.02	0.27
Frontier Markets	36.70	39.36	+0.64	0.64
Global Inc Gth	97.35	104.03	+0.70	3.43
UK Intl	91.22	97.56	+0.21	2.00
Overseas Funds				
American	97.41	103.91	+1.35	1.01
European	66.56	70.61†	-0.05	0.89
Euro Sel Opps	82.20	87.47†	+0.42	1.35
American Emerg	51.04	54.73	+1.04	...
Hong Kong	67.35	72.22†	+1.37	1.54
Japan	141.19	150.42	-1.61	...
Pacific Growth	98.39	105.51	+0.61	0.87
GOVETT (JOHN) UNIT MANAGEMENT Shackleton House, 4 Battle Bridge Lane, London SE1 2HR. 071 378 7979. Dealing: 071 588 0526				
Intl Growth	102.98	110.13	-1.08	0.43
American Gth	98.55	105.40	+1.55	0.14
European Gth	60.39	64.55	-0.02	0.79
German Horizn	44.10	47.09	+0.61	0.46
Japan Gth	56.09	59.98	-1.79	...
Pacific Inc	99.53	106.44	-0.26	2.33
Pacific Strategy	69.60	74.44	+0.92	0.36
UK Prog Inc	65.15	69.68	+1.10	7.96
Gt Britain Cos	43.51	46.53	+0.05	2.65
UK Small Cos	37.52	40.12	-1.42	2.80
GRE UNIT MANAGERS 36 Harbour Exchange Sq, London E14 9GE. 071 538 5666				
Cash	122.80	122.80	...	10.72

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Gilt Fixed	110.00	116.60†	...	7.71
Growth Equity	250.50	267.60	...	3.28
Guardhill	361.80	386.60†	...	5.11
Income Trust	88.03	94.04	...	6.13
International	125.80	134.40	...	0.08
Managed	101.00	107.90	...	2.67
Nth American	199.00	212.60	...	0.42
Pacific	278.80	297.80	...	...
Prop Shares	172.60	184.40	...	4.13
Small Cos	215.80	230.50	...	2.15
European	319.40	341.20	...	0.46
HALIFAX STANDARD TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD PO Box 600, Edinburgh EH15 1EW. 0800 838868				
Global Adv Inc	29.31	31.07†	-0.17	2.27
-do- Acc	30.16	31.98	-0.18	2.27
Inc Adv Inc	23.99	25.43	...	5.57
-do- Acc	23.99	25.43	...	5.57
HAMBROS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 5 Rayleigh Rd, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex. Enquiries: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690390				
Amer Equity Inc	56.70	60.16	...	1.81
Canadian	50.77	54.39	...	0.28
Equity Income	90.46	96.23	...	3.92
European	122.80	129.90	...	1.04
High Income	57.97	61.67	...	6.44
Intl Situation	62.39	66.73	...	...
Japan Far East	95.66	101.50	...	...
North American	85.89	91.13	...	0.11
Scandinavian	94.74	100.20	...	0.58
Smaller Cos	24.17	25.71†	...	2.45
UK New Gentn	34.17	36.35†	...	2.48
HENDERSON PO Box 2003, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1XT. Enquiries: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690370				
Amer Smaller	70.00	75.24	-0.02	...
Asian Enterprise	84.94	90.95	+1.16	1.40
Australian	117.17	125.24	+2.50	3.93
European	303.43	321.58	+2.57	0.57
European Inc	60.12	63.59†	-0.01	2.63
Euro Smllr Co	107.61	114.18	+1.71	1.16
Extra Income	217.39	231.42†	-3.01	7.34
Family of Funds	57.01	60.73	+0.35	1.59
Fixed Interest	48.83	52.96†	-1.92	9.99
Global Recovr	69.21	74.29†	+0.80	2.32
High Inc	239.27	255.77†	+0.76	6.62
Income Gth	193.80	206.38	-0.97	5.62
-do- Acc	465.67	495.93	-2.31	5.62
International	185.95	197.70	-0.20	0.82
Japan Spc Sit	161.65	171.49	-4.52	...
Japan	137.32	146.05†	-4.54	...
N Amer	183.61	195.54	+1.23	0.44
Pacific Smllr Cos	119.94	128.65	-0.10	0.64
Pref Gilt	41.82	45.44†	-0.19	10.60
Smaller Cos Div	143.97	156.92†	+0.35	4.90
Special Sitr	220.70	236.21†	-0.88	1.71
-do- Acc	333.35	356.77†	-1.33	1.71
Best of British	48.88	52.45	-0.53	3.55
Spirit of the East	*41.19*	*43.98*	*+0.15*	*1.17*
HILL SAMUEL UT MANAGERS NLA Tower Addiscombe Road, Croydon. 081 686 4355				
British	75.39	80.63	-1.42	3.50
Capital	130.20	139.20†	-2.10	2.80
Dollar	242.50	259.30	+1.50	0.64
European	169.90	181.70	-1.00	0.97
Far East	173.40	185.40	-2.10	1.02
Financial	483.90	517.50	-8.40	3.62
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	23.60	24.51	-0.36	9.42
High Yield	81.15	86.79	-1.25	6.85
Income	*108.40*	*115.90*	*-1.50*	*5.16*
Intl	171.20	183.10	-1.00	0.62
Japan Tech	48.97	52.37	-2.10	...
Nat Resources	49.60	53.04	-0.20	1.19
Security	248.80	266.00†	-8.30	3.18
Smaller Cos	88.42	94.56	-2.19	2.07
Special Sits	114.80	122.70†	-2.90	3.74
US Smaller Cos	54.30	58.07	+0.21	...
IBI FUND MANAGERS 36 Queen St, London, EC4R 1BN. 071 489 8673				
Brit O seas	195.80	206.10	-0.50	1.84
Capital Gwth	92.10	96.95	-0.96	2.87
Inv Trusts	98.24	103.40	-0.30	0.94
INVESCO MIM UT MANAGERS 11 Devonshire Square, London, EC2M 4YR. 071 626 3434. Dealing: 0800 010733				
UK Specialist Trusts				
Great British	42.23	45.27	-0.03	2.61
Smaller Cos	20.58	22.76†	-0.25	2.60
Special Features	22.89	24.32	+0.22	2.58
-do- Acc	26.23	27.86	+0.23	2.58
General Funds				
UK Growth	44.83	47.63	-0.14	3.22
Assets Earnings	60.50	64.28†	-0.38	3.26
do Acc	69.32	73.65†	-0.43	3.22
Managed Invest	70.47	75.28†	-0.25	1.01
Rupert Children	65.28	69.63	-0.34	2.91
High Income Funds				
Cashbox	50.34	50.34	+0.08	10.50
Extra Inc	65.83	71.05†	+0.20	6.82
Gilt	25.50	26.85	-0.33	7.69
Income Gth	32.03	34.35	+0.04	5.01
MIMstar	71.57	73.36	-0.07	9.29
Preference	14.58	15.49†	-0.01	10.55
UK Income	262.10	281.40	+1.50	4.77
Sector Specialist Funds				
Commodity	37.11	39.49	+0.94	1.39
Fincl Sec	41.76	44.37	+0.07	3.01
Gold	36.45	38.92	+0.53	2.41
-do- Acc	38.85	41.49	+0.58	2.41
Intl Leisure	22.84	24.26	+0.05	0.33
Property Shares	50.90	54.08†	-0.72	2.65
Exempt Funds				
Exempt	115.00	121.20	+0.60	5.95
European Acc	96.08	101.80	+0.50	2.01
European Dist	93.50	99.10	+0.52	2.01
Overseas Growth Funds				
American Gth	39.79	42.34†	+0.42	1.01
European Perf	90.22	95.69	+0.38	1.59
-do- Acc	91.43	96.90	+0.38	1.59
Euro Small Cos	18.35	19.46	+0.19	1.44
French Growth	54.67	57.91†	+0.62	1.89
-do- Acc	57.66	61.07†	+0.65	1.87
Hong K/China	42.25	44.89	+0.74	2.49
Intl Growth	40.60	43.13	+0.02	1.40
Japan Perf	25.17	26.72	-0.88	...
Accum Units	25.17	26.72	-0.88	...
Japan Smllr Cos	26.11	27.75	-0.78	...
Singapore Assets	55.19	59.94	-0.31	1.01
-do- Acc	55.53	60.31	-0.31	1.01
South East Asia	157.60	169.20†	+0.50	1.20
US Smllr Cos	97.65	103.70	+1.80	...
-do- Acc	98.58	104.80	+1.80	...
Overseas Income Funds				
Global Inc	63.88	67.88	+0.07	3.68
Intl Bond	45.38	47.79†	+0.08	7.03
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUST LTD 10 Fenchurch Street, London EC3. 071 956 6600. Dealing: 071 956 7354				
Income Trusts				
Cash Acc*	64.56	64.88†	+0.09	11.20
Extra Income	43.84	46.43†	-0.66	7.00
Gilt Yield	108.40	114.40†	-3.30	9.41
Global Income	159.40	169.60†	-2.30	5.04
High Yield	104.20	110.90	+0.60	6.93
Smllr Cos Div	37.46	39.85†	+0.18	7.45
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	73.06	77.72†	-0.79	0.05
North American	59.00	62.77	-0.17	0.64
European	115.60	123.00	+0.70	0.97
Euro Special	73.95	78.67	+0.31	0.60
Fund of Inv Tsts	26.30	27.98†	-0.28	2.57
General	238.40	253.60	-4.70	3.75
Intl Recovery	103.50	110.10	+0.60	1.93
Japan	294.40	313.20	-9.90	...
Japanese Special	162.30	172.70	-4.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Master Acc	189.50	201.60	-2.50	2.12
Pacific	193.90	206.30	-3.90	0.64
Smaller Cos	83.46	88.79	+0.26	3.96
UK Equity Gth	27.53	29.29†	+0.11	2.87
LAS UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 113 Dundas St, Edinburgh EH3 5EB. 031 550 5151				
European	58.41	62.14	-1.09	1.42
Extra Income	20.73	22.05	-0.27	5.76
Far East	18.50	19.68	-0.26	0.47
Income Gwth	59.00	62.77†	-0.78	3.94
Intl Growth	40.13	42.69	-0.48	1.58
Japan	43.50	46.28†	-0.69	...
Maximum Dist*	98.81	100.80†	...	10.00
N Amer Equity	30.97	32.95	+0.20	0.93
UK Equity	72.16	76.77	+0.35	3.83
LAURENCE KEEN UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT 1 White Hart Yard, London SE1. 071 407 5966				
Income Gth Inc	46.14	49.09†	-0.17	4.85
LEGAL & GENERAL UT MANAGERS 5 Rayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood Essex. Enq: 0277 227300. Dealing: 0277 690395				
Equity Dist	359.60	382.60†	-6.70	3.69
Equity Acc	663.60	706.00	-4.00	3.69
Equity Income	76.38	81.25	+0.10	5.61
European	84.74	90.15†	-0.57	0.88
Far Eastern	124.90	132.90	-1.60	...
Fixed Interest	46.01	48.95†	-1.18	7.93
Gilt	82.00	87.72	-1.41	6.36
Global Growth	52.12	55.45	-0.73	0.85
Intl Bond	45.13	48.01†	+0.48	5.14
Japanese	48.66	51.77	-1.44	...
Overseas Equity	80.26	85.38	-0.46	0.74
Nat Resources	68.12	72.47	-0.63	1.82
North American	108.60	115.50†	+0.10	1.29
UK Recovery	61.26	65.17	-0.06	3.22
UK Special Sits	89.82	95.55†	+0.45	2.73
Worldwide	63.46	67.51	...	3.91
LLOYDS BANK UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF. 0634 834313				
Balanced	271.90	286.20	-0.90	3.57
-do- Acc	570.50	600.60	-2.00	3.57
Contl Euro Gth	42.79	45.05	+0.28	1.63
-do- Acc	44.71	47.07	+0.29	1.63
Extra Inc	203.50	214.30	-3.30	5.40
-do- Acc	474.30	499.30	-8.00	5.40
German Gth	93.02	97.92	+1.06	0.32
-do- Acc	96.97	102.10	+1.10	0.32
Income	389.10	409.60	-1.20	4.82
-do- Acc	949.00	999.00	-2.00	4.82
Japan Growth	71.58	76.15	-2.23	0.02
-do- Acc	71.83	76.42	-2.24	0.02
Master Trust	45.18	47.54	+0.16	2.66
-do- Acc	48.08	50.60	+0.18	2.66
N American Gen	158.70	168.90	+0.90	0.49
-do- Acc	183.00	194.70	+0.90	0.49
NAm Sm Co Rec	114.80	120.90	+0.50	0.01
-do- Acc	117.20	123.41	+0.51	0.01
Pacific Basin	157.10	167.20†	+1.10	0.54
-do- Acc	165.20	175.80	+1.10	0.54
Small Cos Rec	263.50	277.40	+0.40	2.61
-do- Acc	331.60	349.10	+0.50	2.61
UK Growth	74.54	78.47	+1.79	3.20
-do- Acc	84.67	89.13	+2.04	3.20
Worldwide Gth	224.00	235.80	+0.40	0.96
-do- Acc	328.30	345.60	+0.70	0.96
LONDON & MANCHESTER Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 0392 282673				
General	67.02	71.91	-0.24	3.80
Income	49.97	53.62†	-1.14	6.70
International	45.65	48.98	-0.02	1.60
American	47.64	51.12	+0.41	0.90
Japan	35.06	37.62	-0.89	...
Tst of Inv Trusts	42.93	46.06	-0.05	2.60
M & G SECURITIES Three Quays, Tower Hill, EC3R 6BQ. 071 626 4588. Dealing: 0245 266266				
American Gen	311.40	329.20†	+2.60	0.77
-do- Acc	382.70	404.00	+3.30	0.77
American Rec	306.50	324.10	+4.40	0.67
-do- Acc	349.20	369.20	+5.00	0.67
Am Sm Co Acc	98.00	103.60	+1.80	...
Australia Acc	128.00	135.30	+2.90	1.53
Capital	488.00	516.10†	-2.20	4.61
-do- Acc	522.10	552.20	-2.30	4.61
Commodity Acc	329.30	348.30	+3.40	2.33
Compnd Gth	641.40	678.30	+0.30	4.40
Dividend	26.30	28.10	+0.10	6.34
-do- Acc	97.80	104.60	+0.70	6.34
Equity Inc	218.70	231.30†	-4.40	7.91
European Div	48.70	51.90	-0.10	5.47
-do- Acc	52.90	56.40	...	5.47
Extra Yield	290.60	310.90	+1.80	7.13
-do- Acc	785.10	840.00	+4.70	7.13
Far Eastern	198.20	209.60†	+2.40	0.95
-do- Acc	257.30	272.10	+3.10	0.95
Fund of Inv	343.80	405.90	-1.40	2.95
-do- Acc	677.10	716.10	-2.50	2.95
General	43.90	46.40	+0.10	5.06
-do- Acc	111.20	117.50	+0.30	5.06
Gilt Fxd Int	57.90	60.80†	-1.10	8.88
do Acc	132.40	139.10	-2.40	8.88
Gold	36.50	38.60	+1.40	1.84
-do- Acc	42.00	44.50	+1.60	1.84
High Inc	19.30	20.40	...	6.82
-do- Acc	67.40	71.20	-0.20	6.82
Intl Growth	54.90	58.40†	+0.30	1.10
-do- Acc	93.70	99.70	+0.40	1.10
Intl Inc	72.70	76.90	+1.00	5.68
Japan Gen Acc	37.80	39.90	-0.20	...
Japan Smllr Cos	108.40	114.70	-0.70	...
Midland	42.80	45.30	-0.50	5.83
-do- Acc	128.90	136.40	-1.50	5.83
Recovery	26.80	28.50	-0.20	4.94
-do- Acc	41.00	43.60	-0.20	4.94
Second Gen	46.80	49.50	+0.40	5.12
-do- Acc	110.00	116.40	+0.80	5.12
Smaller Cos	50.30	53.20†	...	4.67
-do- Acc	91.90	97.20	-0.10	4.67
Trustee	30.60	32.40	+0.10	5.19
Charibond 3	*†103.22*	*...*	*-1.49*	*10.45*
Charifund 2	485.80	490.70	+2.40	7.40
Pension ex 1	711.10	728.90	+2.40	5.44
NAACIF Inc 3	‡40.50	...	...	9.54
-do- Acc 3	‡857.00	...	+1.00	9.54
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD PO Box 410, Chester X, CH99 9QG. 0244 680066				
Inv Port Inc	112.00	119.70	-0.30	3.12
-do- Acc	121.60	130.00	-0.30	3.12
UK Income	93.47	99.96	-0.44	4.23
-do- Acc	101.20	108.20	-0.50	4.23
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD Saltire Court, 20 Castle Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2ES. 031 229 5252				
Emerg Mkts	56.39	60.30†	+1.05	0.47
Far East (Pacific)	97.16	103.10	-0.40	0.77
Income Growth	61.01	64.76†	-0.31	4.87
European	58.00	61.57†	+0.12	1.23
Nth American	41.90	44.47	-0.36	0.60
UK Growth	60.14	63.84	+0.37	1.73
Intl Growth	74.44	79.02	+0.16	1.56
Charities	90.31	95.87†	-0.06	5.90
High Yield	44.20	46.92	-0.52	8.38
Intl Income	51.05	54.19†	-0.14	4.67
Japan	35.18	37.34†	-0.89	...
MERCURY FUND MANAGERS LTD 33 King William St, EC4R 9AS. 071 280 2060				
American Gth	144.40	153.30	+1.40	0.06
-do- Acc	154.30	163.80	+1.50	0.06
American Inc	36.86	39.03	+0.42	6.54
-do- Acc	51.83	54.90	+0.59	6.54
Cash	101.00	101.00	+0.10	10.41

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Acc	120.10	120.10	+0.20	10.41
European Gth	168.30	178.10	+2.00	0.49
-do- Acc	178.70	189.20	+2.10	0.49
General	391.30	417.40†	-7.20	2.87
-do- Acc	727.50	776.00†	-0.60	2.87
Global Dist	109.50	114.90	+0.20	6.09
-do- Acc	113.60	119.30	+0.30	6.09
Govt Securities	86.84	91.26	-0.62	8.26
-do- Acc	143.30	150.50	-1.10	8.26
Income	112.40	119.90†	+0.10	5.89
-do- Acc	157.40	167.90†	+0.10	5.89
International	289.80	307.70	-1.10	0.90
-do- Acc	381.70	405.10	-1.50	0.90
Japan	142.30	150.50	-3.80	...
-do- Acc	146.00	154.50	-3.90	...
Recovery	233.60	249.20	-0.90	4.41
-do- Acc	284.80	303.80	-1.10	4.41
European Inc	64.05	67.93	-0.02	3.46
-do- Acc	78.85	83.64	-0.01	3.46
Brit Blue Chip	61.90	66.01	-0.27	4.04
-do- Acc	70.22	74.89	-0.31	4.04
Portfolio	61.74	65.65	-0.02	3.66
-do- Acc	67.19	71.45	-0.02	3.66
Gold General	59.57	63.55	-0.50	3.82
-do- Acc	59.57	63.55	-0.56	3.82
High Income	44.81	47.80†	-0.12	7.53
-do- Acc	56.52	60.29†	-0.14	7.53
Pacific	58.91	62.84	+0.57	1.60
-do- Acc	61.61	65.71	+0.58	1.60
UK Smaller Cos	43.54	46.45†	+0.22	2.14
-do- Acc	47.57	50.74†	+0.24	2.14
MIDLAND UNIT TRUSTS LTD 192 Eyre Street, Sheffield, S1 3RD. Dealing: 0742 520 200 Enquiries: 0742 529 076				
British Dist	65.72	70.29†	-0.80	3.37
-do- Acc	72.59	77.64	-0.73	3.37
Capital	82.56	88.30	+0.57	3.74
-do- Acc	126.80	135.60	+0.80	3.74
European Gth	146.50	156.10	+0.60	0.96
-do- Acc	182.90	194.80	+0.70	0.96
Extra High Inc	59.06	63.17	+1.28	8.35
-do- Acc	95.84	102.50	+2.10	8.35
Gilt Fixed Int	50.78	52.87†	-2.04	9.07
-do- Acc	124.60	129.70	-2.50	9.07
High Yield	181.10	193.70	+2.90	6.94
-do- Acc	396.10	423.60	+6.20	6.94
Income	232.30	248.50†	+2.50	5.52
-do- Acc	465.00	497.30	+5.10	5.52
Intl High St Dist	61.31	65.57	-0.14	0.67
-do- Acc	64.77	69.27	-0.15	0.67
Japan Gth	231.80	247.90†	-6.40	...
-do- Acc	244.80	261.80	-6.00	...
Mandarin Acc	67.89	72.61	+0.99	1.87
North American	132.00	141.20	+1.00	0.79
-do- Acc	165.70	177.20	+1.30	0.79
Mngd Port Acc	68.82	73.60	-0.11	1.84
Meridian Gth	123.20	131.80	-1.10	1.52
Meridian Inc	93.52	100.00	-0.60	3.80
Smaller Cos	108.00	115.50	+2.70	2.52
-do- Acc	127.60	136.50	+3.20	2.52
MORGAN GRENFELL INVESTMENT FUNDS LTD 20 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 1UT. Dealing: 071 826 0826. Enquiries: 071 826 0123				
American Gth	207.20	221.90	+4.60	0.56
Cash Inc	100.61	100.61	+0.22	10.71
Cash Acc	114.52	114.52	+0.14	10.71
Euro Gth Acc	211.00	226.40	+2.10	...
Europe	108.30	116.40†	+1.30	...
Intl Gth	139.30	148.90	+0.80	...
Japan Tracker	52.94	56.14	-0.89	...
UK Equity Inc	113.50	122.20	+1.20	4.38
-do- Acc	130.90	140.90	+1.40	4.38
UK Ind Tracker	121.70	129.90†	-0.30	3.80
US Eq Ind Trkr	150.10	160.90†	-0.10	2.91
-do- Acc	156.80	168.10†	+0.90	2.91
Asian Trader	93.14	100.30	+1.44	1.55
MURRAY JOHNSTONE UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT 7 West Nile St, Glasgow G2 2PX. 0345 090 933				
American Inc	137.50	140.10†	+1.40	3.56
European	54.82	58.41	+0.53	1.31
Far Eastern	109.10	112.20	+0.90	1.15
Olympiad	45.91	46.92†	...	0.86
Olympiad Inc	43.80	44.88†	+0.39	0.33
Smaller Cos	48.63	50.89	+0.14	1.79
Equity Income	78.61	80.87†	-0.60	6.39
UK Growth	74.57	77.39	-0.90	1.74
NM UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD The Bilton Centre, North Harbour, Portsmouth. Enquiries: 0705 372222. Dealing: 0705 387730				
American Acc	38.44	41.00	-0.04	1.19
Australian Acc	232.70	249.60	+2.00	0.10
Combined	55.24	58.95	-1.19	1.83
-do- Acc	58.62	62.56	-1.26	1.83
European	148.10	157.90	-1.30	0.95
-do- Acc	157.30	167.70	-1.40	0.95
Extra Income	61.85	66.00†	-1.25	6.83
-do- Acc	88.49	94.43	-1.34	6.83
Far East Gth	105.40	112.60	-2.60	...
Gilt Fxd Inc	52.29	55.34†	-0.69	8.24
Gold	28.87	31.04	-0.02	...
-do- Acc	31.09	33.43	-0.02	...
Income	43.68	46.59	-0.66	5.86
-do- Acc	125.20	133.50	-1.90	5.86
International	24.60	26.39	-0.20	1.14
-do- Acc	35.10	37.66	-0.27	1.14
Jap Sm Cos Acc	279.20	297.80	-10.10	...
S'pore Mly Acc	107.80	115.60	-2.90	...
Smllr Cos Acc	22.74	24.45	-0.86	3.07
Special Sits	26.78	28.79	-0.34	2.85
-do- Acc	30.07	32.33	-0.39	2.85
Tokyo	59.68	63.65†	-1.62	...
-do- Acc	60.28	64.29	-1.64	...
US Smllr Co Acc	72.30	77.32	-1.04	...
UK Equity	137.90	147.00	-3.00	4.04
-do- Acc	249.60	266.20	-5.50	4.04
N&P UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 35 Fountain St, Manchester M2 2AF. 061 237 5322				
N&P UK Growth	58.11	61.82	-0.20	3.72
N&P Gilt Fxd Int	65.24	69.04†	-0.15	8.42
N&P Higher Inc	*143.40*	*152.20*	*-5.00*	*6.77*
N&P UK Income	82.20	87.92	-0.22	5.55
N&P Intl	73.71	78.84	-0.02	2.65
N&P Smaller Cos	59.01	63.12	+0.04	2.70
NEWTON FUND MANAGERS 2 London Bridge, London SE1 9RA. 071 407 4404				
General	131.05	139.42	-0.01	3.25
Global	223.31	237.57	-0.79	1.40
Income	160.04	170.26	+0.30	5.68
International	102.08	108.60	+0.11	7.47
PEARL UNIT TRUST LTD PO Box 500, Thorpewood, Peterborough PE3 6GD. Dealing: 0800 626577. Enquiries: 0733 67767				
Growth	119.10	125.30	-0.60	3.11
-do- Acc	201.40	212.00	-1.00	3.11
Income	179.90	191.30	+0.20	4.94
Intl Equity	175.00	186.10	-0.40	1.37
-do- Acc	189.50	201.60	-0.40	1.37
Equity	186.50	198.30	-0.30	2.96
-do- Acc	369.40	393.00	-0.50	2.96
UK Intl 25 Acc	55.71	59.26	-0.20	2.71
UK Income	48.49	51.58	-0.01	4.57
UK Smllr Co Acc	53.02	56.40	+0.13	2.46
New Europe Acc	55.51	59.04	+0.07	1.30
PERPETUAL UNIT TRUST 48 Hart Street, Henley on Thames. 0491 576868				
Asian Smllr Mkt	55.19	59.03	+1.31	0.52
PEP Gth Inc	74.17	79.33	+0.63	1.66
Intl Gth	363.39	388.66	-0.85	0.73
Income	224.47	240.08	-1.07	5.14
W wide Recov	223.98	239.56	+0.84	1.17
American Gth	149.51	159.91	+0.05	0.21

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Intl Emerg Cos	123.66	132.26	+1.78	0.66
Far East Gth	136.29	145.77	+4.27	0.21
European Gth	87.17	93.23	-0.80	1.40
UK Growth	56.76	60.71	-0.13	4.29
High Income	61.63	65.92	+0.37	5.75
Japanese Gth	137.65	147.04	-2.37	0.01
PROLIFIC UNIT TRUST MANAGERS Walbrook Hse, 23 Walbrook, London, EC4N 8LD. Dealing: 0800 282443				
International	153.20	162.90	-1.50	1.07
High Income	85.16	90.60	-1.54	5.03
Conv Gilt	98.56	104.90†	-4.80	7.70
Far East	223.10	237.90	-2.40	0.51
PROSPERITY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT 1 Sessions Hse Sq, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX. 0622 674751				
American	39.90	42.45	+0.19	0.69
Emerging Mkts	45.05	47.93	+0.67	0.31
General	40.43	43.01	-0.52	3.97
International	69.06	73.47	+0.03	1.55
Gilt Units	23.79	24.53†	-0.43	8.67
Global PEP	28.80	30.64	-0.14	2.55
Income Gth	53.76	57.19†	-0.25	6.15
European	38.64	41.11†	-0.25	1.29
Gilt/Fixed Int	22.59	24.03†	-0.23	6.93
UK Smaller Cos	20.64	21.96†	-0.30	3.18
PRUDENTIAL UNIT TRUSTS LTD 51/69 Ilford Hill, Ilford, Essex IG1 2DL. 081 478 3377				
Holb Trust	23.85	25.50†	-0.13	1.49
Holb Cash Hvn	100.83	100.83†	+0.16	10.24
Holb Equity	569.25	608.82	-5.44	3.30
Holb Equity Inc	64.83	69.33†	-0.73	5.70
Holb European	147.54	157.79	+0.14	1.87
Holb Global Gth	62.97	67.34†	-0.28	2.13
Holb High Inc	73.05	78.12	-0.75	6.40
Holb Intl	124.24	132.87†	-0.86	1.59
Holb Intl Sm Co	53.15	56.84	-0.02	1.19
Holb Japanese	117.75	125.93†	-4.42	...
Holb Nth Amer	106.97	114.40	+1.03	0.38
Holb Pacific Mkt	54.95	58.76†	+0.51	2.20
Holb Presnt Inc	44.40	46.22†	-0.60	8.17
Holb Smllr Cos	68.55	73.31	-0.06	2.70
Holb Spec Sits	84.22	90.07	-0.97	2.92
Holb UK Growth	92.83	99.28†	-1.06	3.10
ROTHSCHILD FUND MANAGEMENT LTD St Swithin's Lane, London EC4N 8NR. Dealing: 071 634 2981/4				
Income	125.90	135.67	+0.27	4.61
Japan	179.91	193.04	-2.85	...
Major UK Cos	80.77	86.87	-0.31	2.79
America Income	363.32	388.63	+2.32	0.82
-do- Acc	419.74	448.98	+2.68	0.82
Smllr UK Cos	195.05	212.95†	-0.92	2.45
Smllr European	213.97	228.34	+1.84	1.31
SAVE & PROSPER 28 Western Rd, Romford RM1 3LB. 0708 766966				
Amer Inc Gth	56.57	60.18	+1.37	6.15
Capital Units	116.80	124.20	-0.10	2.08
Commodity	78.38	83.38†	+1.24	1.66
European Gth	131.00	139.30	+0.60	1.31
Financial Sec	120.20	127.80	+0.40	2.45
High Return	199.90	212.60	...	8.08
High Yield	191.60	203.80	-0.10	6.36
Income Units	89.27	94.96†	-1.06	8.20
Investment	135.20	143.80	-0.20	2.04
Japan Gth	94.85	100.90	-1.80	...
Japan Smaller	146.40	155.70	-3.30	...
Masterfund	37.72	40.12	+0.10	1.88
Scotbits	175.90	187.10	+1.20	2.35
Scotshares	234.20	249.10	+1.20	4.04
Scotyields	188.80	200.80†	...	6.37
Select Intl	102.80	109.30	+1.40	0.75
Smaller Cos	206.50	219.60	...	6.62
Special Situation	96.76	102.90	-0.60	2.12
UK Equity	202.30	215.20†	-0.40	4.29
US Growth	109.40	116.30†	+0.90	0.30
SCHRODER UNIT TRUSTS LTD 33 Gutter Lane, London EC2V 8AS. Dealing: 071 606 8484. Enquiries: 071 382 3800				
American	190.20	202.80	+1.10	0.50
-do- Acc	204.50	218.10	+1.20	0.50
Australian	*114.00*	*121.60†*	*+2.20*	*0.99*
-do- Acc	131.70	140.40	+2.60	0.99
UK Enterprise	157.90	168.40	+0.30	4.43
-do- Acc	177.80	189.60	+0.40	4.43
European Gth	54.67	58.31	+0.27	1.29
-do- Acc	55.95	59.67	+0.28	1.29
Euro Smllr Cos	52.35	55.84	+0.69	0.36
-do- Acc	52.56	56.06	+0.69	0.36
Far Eastern Gth	47.76	50.94†	+0.14	0.14
-do- Acc	48.58	51.81	+0.14	0.14
Fixed Interest	47.89	50.48†	-2.28	8.04
-do- Acc	56.12	59.16	-0.56	8.04
Gilt Income	93.92	98.99†	-5.71	9.21
-do- Acc	123.20	129.80	-2.20	9.21
Income	237.10	252.90†	-5.40	6.25
-do- Acc	667.50	712.00	+0.40	6.25
Japan Enterprise	45.49	48.52	-0.91	...
-do- Acc	45.49	48.52	-0.91	...
Japan Smllr Cos	325.00	346.60	-12.00	...
-do- Acc	325.60	347.30	-12.00	...
Pacific Gth	58.03	61.89†	+0.41	1.73
-do- Acc	59.49	63.45	+0.43	1.73
Smaller Cos	149.70	159.60	-0.20	1.77
-do- Acc	169.50	180.70	-0.30	1.77
Tokyo	72.15	76.95†	-2.16	0.32
-do- Acc	72.88	77.73	-2.18	0.32
UK Equity	167.50	178.60	-1.50	3.99
-do- Acc	301.30	321.30	-2.50	3.99
US Smllr Cos	83.27	88.82	+1.21	...
-do- Acc	83.27	88.82	+1.21	...
World Fd	56.77	60.55†	-0.37	2.28
-do- Acc	58.97	62.90	-0.39	2.28
SCOTTISH AMICABLE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 150 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5NQ. 041 204 2200				
Equity Income	33.04	35.19	+0.01	6.59
Equity Strategy	48.69	51.85	...	4.48
European Opps	64.64	68.89	+0.58	1.50
Maximum Inc	*97.88*	*102.43*	*+0.37*	*10.10*
UK Smaller Cos	41.40	44.09	...	4.04
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS 19 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh. 031 225 2211				
UK Equity	288.90	309.90	-1.40	3.71
American	190.00	201.70	-0.40	1.14
Pacific	237.20	253.70	-1.90	0.55
European	380.00	406.40	+1.10	1.37
Worldwide	67.94	72.66	+0.31	1.78
SCOTTISH MUTUAL INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT 109 St Vincent St, Glasgow G2 5HN. 041 248 6100				
UK Equity	262.80	279.60	-0.80	3.55
UK Sm Cos Eqty	196.80	209.40	-0.60	2.71
European	277.60	295.40	-2.20	1.75
North American	201.90	214.80	-0.50	0.54
Income Plus Inc	52.17	55.50†	-0.82	6.18
UK Spec Sits	58.97	62.74†	-0.25	2.35
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT LTD 6 St Andrew Sq, Edinburgh EH2 2YA. 031 558 2341/2/3				
Equity Gth Acc	*21.54*	*23.05*	*-0.03*	*4.24*
Intl Growth Acc	22.92	24.53	-0.08	0.96
Global Inc Acc	23.60	25.26	-0.01	4.81
Market Ldrs Acc	22.04	23.59†	-0.10	4.74
SG TOUCHE REMNANT Mermaid Hse, 2 Puddle Dock, London EC4V 3AT. 071 248 1250				
American Gth	65.37	69.91†	-0.61	...
Euro Spec Sits	36.65	38.98	-0.11	2.01
-do- Acc	38.25	40.68	-0.11	2.02
Far East Opps	21.71	23.42	+0.08	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
-do- Acc	22.16	23.91	+0.09	
General Growth	83.32	88.87	-0.12	3.5
Global Tech	94.18	101.40	-0.10	
Income Growth	82.42	88.58	+0.24	5.0
Income Monthly	50.49	53.85	+0.02	6.1
Japan Growth	62.03	65.90	-1.78	
Overseas Gth	60.06	63.83	-0.46	0.6
Smaller Cos	67.81	72.91	+0.26	3.2
Special Opps	72.97	78.35†	+0.11	3.9
Wld Spec Sits	35.66	38.53†	+0.63	
-do- Acc	35.69	38.57	+0.63	
STANDARD LIFE TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 3 George St, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ. 0800 393777				
Managed	36.57	38.86	-0.16	2.5
Equity Gth Acc	50.85	54.03	-0.47	1.57
UK Eq General	46.85	49.78	-0.34	3.30
-do- Acc	36.65	38.95	-0.27	3.30
European Acc	37.23	39.56	+0.22	1.52
Far East Acc	40.32	42.84	-0.28	0.07
Gilt Fxd Int Inc	28.22	29.85	-0.36	7.25
N American Acc	37.15	39.48	+0.15	0.95
O/s Lgr Cos Acc	216.50	235.00	-0.10	2.01
UK Eq High Inc	29.54	31.39	-0.03	5.93
-do- Acc	33.21	35.29	-0.03	5.93
UK Lgr Cos Inc	250.90	272.30	-2.20	4.35
UK Lgr Cos Acc	311.70	338.20	-2.70	4.35
STEWART IVORY UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 45 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh. 031 226 3271				
American	303.90	323.60	+5.10	0.49
British	806.40	853.20†	-11.30	6.8
European	338.90	360.10	+4.10	1.0
Japan	104.90	111.60	-1.60	.
New Pacific	198.30	211.40	+4.50	1.2
Mngd Cash	96.67	96.67	+0.12	10.3
Majority Stg	100.66	101.66	+0.11	9.2
PEP	*150.90*	*159.60*	*-0.90*	*3.2*
Saints PPP	289.40	303.90	..	..
SUN ALLIANCE Sun Alliance House, Horsham, Sussex. 0403 56293				
Equity Acc	609.20	651.50	-5.70	3.8
N America Acc	87.29	93.36	-0.27	0.5
Far East Acc	89.29	95.50	+1.30	1.5
W wide Bond	49.27	52.41	+0.34	6.6
European	69.36	74.18	+0.36	1.3
Equity Income	66.30	70.91	-0.06	5.1
SUN LIFE OF CANADA Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ. Dealing: 0256 841414				
American Gth	27.66	29.59	+0.13	0.40
Managed Assets	101.64	108.71	-0.15	3.6
UK Income	30.91	33.06	+0.12	5.2
UK Growth	31.20	33.37	-0.01	3.8
Worldwide Gth	24.40	26.10	+0.01	0.9
TSB UNIT TRUSTS LTD Charlton Place, Andover, Hants. SP10 1RE. 0264 346794				
American	171.77	182.73	+1.29	0.4
-do- Acc	*188.66*	*200.70*	*+1.41*	*0.4*
British Gth	73.70	78.40	-0.90	3.8
-do- Acc	83.90	89.25	-1.03	3.8
European	77.81	82.78†	+0.62	1.6
-do- Acc	81.42	86.62†	+0.65	1.6
Extra Inc	156.31	166.29†	+0.11	5.5
-do- Acc	236.54	251.64†	+0.17	5.5
General Unit	228.14	242.70	-4.62	3.3
-do- Acc	438.19	466.16	-8.87	3.3
Income	267.47	284.54	-4.41	5.7
-do- Acc	522.33	555.67	-8.60	5.7
International	402.77	428.48	-4.83	0.9
-do- Acc	522.22	555.56	-6.26	0.9
Pacific	235.82	250.87	-1.81	1.5
-do- Acc	246.41	262.14	-1.89	1.5
Premier Income	46.50	48.44	-0.32	8.50
-do- Acc	89.62	93.35	-0.61	8.50
Nat Resources	68.19	72.54	+1.71	0.2
-do- Acc	74.42	79.17	+1.87	0.2
Selected Opps	75.99	80.84	-1.63	2.5
-do- Acc	93.02	98.95	-2.00	2.5
TARGET TRUST MANAGERS The Exchange, 66 High St, Aylesbury. Bucks HP20 1SE. 0296 312156				
American Eagle	90.90	97.16	+0.73	0.8
Australia	6.634	7.097†	+0.09	1.8
Equity	156.20	168.00	-0.40	6.8
Euro Spec Sits	123.90	131.20	+0.70	0.6
Financial	28.69	30.81	-0.19	4.8
Global Opps Inc	71.48	76.56	+0.08	2.6
-do- Acc	73.04	78.22	+0.08	2.6
Gold Gen Inc	36.28	38.97	+0.21	1.0
-do- Acc	68.17	73.26	+0.43	1.0
Income	97.81	104.80†	-1.70	6.5
Japan General	112.20	119.20	-3.40	..
Preference	19.51	20.97	-0.23	9.6
UK Capital	88.63	95.32†	-0.72	3.9
Worldwide Cap	168.80	180.40	-0.30	2.8
World Income	68.52	73.17	+0.06	4.8
THORNTON UNIT MANAGERS LTD 33 Cavendish Sq, London W1M 7HF. 071 493 7262. Dealing: 071 493 8545				
Amer Sml Cos	87.66	93.49†	+0.17	0.1
-do- Acc	90.41	96.43†	+0.18	0.1
Cash	51.69	51.69	+0.06	10.2
-do- Acc	57.12	57.12	+0.06	10.2
European Opps	55.62	59.25	+0.05	..
-do- Acc	55.92	59.58	+0.05	..
Far East Opps	117.04	124.76	+1.35	0.5
-do- Acc	119.03	126.88	+1.37	0.5
Gold Opps	30.74	32.78	*+0.52*	..
-do- Acc	31.62	33.72	+0.54	..
Sanyo Japan	58.79	62.65	-1.42	..
-do- Acc	58.79	62.65	-1.42	..
Little Dragons	44.14	47.07	+0.31	0.5
-do- Acc	44.89	47.87	+0.31	0.5
Oriental Income	33.09	35.29	+0.21	4.9
-do- Acc	40.15	42.81	+0.25	4.9
Tiger	152.62	162.79	+1.11	0.7
-do- Acc	157.56	168.06	+1.14	0.7
UK Small Cos	53.34	57.04†	+0.02	1.0
-do- Acc	60.69	64.90†	+0.01	1.0
UNITED CHARITIES UNIT TRUSTS Unicorn Hse, 252 Romford Rd, London E7. 081 534 5544				
United Charities	192.70	205.50	-0.20	5.2
WAVERLEY UNIT TRUST MANAGEMENT LTD 13 Charlotte Sq, Edinburgh EH2 4DJ. 031 225 1551				
Australasian Gold	11.53	12.26	+0.12	0.5
Pacific Basin	26.49	28.18	-0.09	0.6
Canadian Gth	36.76	39.10	+0.30	0.1
Global Bond	$0.970	$1.011	-0.03	7.9
Penny Share	19.56	20.80	-0.28	1.5
WHITTINGDALE UNIT TRUST MANAGERS 2 Honey Lane, London EC2V 8BT. 071 606 3132				
City Reserve	52.52	52.52	+0.06	10.6
Gilt Growth	57.73	60.08	-0.90	1.8
Gilt Income	48.29	50.25	-0.56	8.7
Short Dtd Gilt	95.80	97.05	-0.30	1.4
US Govmnt Bd	$0.674	$0.683	0.00	..
Challenger	72.03	73.74	+0.12	..
WOOLWICH UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD 1 White Oak Square, Swanley BR8 7AG. 0705 388046				
Stockmarket Fd	55.78	59.33	-0.72	2.7

Source: Finstat

* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; ... No significant data.

FT-SE 100 VOLUMES

Abbey Natl	3,100	Courtaulds	733	MEPC	165	Sainsbury	1,400
Alld-Lyons	1,600	Enterpr Oil	1,100	Marks Spr	4,100	Scot & New	1,500
Anglian W	1,600	Eurotnnl U	220	Midlnd Bk	1,300	Scot Power	6,800
Argyll Gp	571	Fisons	3,100	NFC	972	Sears	2,500
Arjo Wiggn	918	Forte	1,300	NatWst Bk	5,600	Svrn Trent	499
AB Foods	206	GRE	5,600	Nat Power	8,400	Shell Trans	3,400
BAA	846	GUS A	346	Nth Wst W	418	SmKl Bch	5,800
BAT Inds	2,200	Gen Acc	1,300	Nthrn Fds	1,600	Smith Nph	1,300
BET	3,400	Gen Elec	5,700	P & O	1,500	Smith (WH)	326
BOC	859	Glaxo	3,600	Pearson	301	Sun Allnce	1,500
BP	12,000	Grand Met	3,100	Pilkington	793	TSB	2,600
BTR	2,200	Guinness	2,200	PowerGen	4,500	Tarmac	1,800
Bk of Scot	2,400	Hanson	8,900	Prudential	2,600	Tate & Lyle	1,100
Barclays	7,000	Hillsdown	2,300	RMC	294	Tesco	2,800
Bass	978	ICI	1,300	RTZ	1,500	Thames W	1,100
Blue Circle	838	Inchcape	675	Rank Org	950	Thrn EMI	5,500
Boots	1,200	Kingfisher	1,200	Reckitt Col	208	Tomkins	662
Brit Aero	4,700	LASMO	2,600	Redland	2,400	Traf House	1,100
Brit Airwys	1,400	Ladbroke	6,000	Reed Intl	1,000	Unilever	1,000
Brit Gas	4,900	Land Secs	475	Rentokil	84	Utd Bisc	1,100
Brit Steel	9,900	Laporte	344	Reuters	1,500	Vodafone	2,400
Brit Tele	6,700	Legal & Gn	412	Rolls Royce	6,200	Wellcome	560
Cable Wire	1,000	Lloyds Bk	2,400	Rothmans	170	Whitbd 'A'	1,600
Cadbury	1,400	Lonrho	4,000	Royal Ins	1,500	Wlms Hld	1,200
Cm Union	480	MB Cardn	302	Ryl Bk Scot	1,300	Willis Crm	442

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones .... 3236.58 (-4.92)
S&P Composite .... 405.86 (-0.65)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Av'ge 20992.99 (+128.57)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng ..... 4908.90 (-55.39)

FT-SE Euro 100 1162.10 (-7.46)

Amsterdam:
CBS Tendency .... 128.0 (-0.1)

Sydney: AO .... 1604.7 (-3.6)

Frankfurt: DAX 1745.95 (-18.85)

Brussels:
General .... 5913.46 (-35.16)

Paris: CAC .... 527.26 (-1.89)

Zurich: SKA Gen .... 475.0 (-5.0)

London:
FT A All-Share .. 1218.30 (-2.03)
FT 500 .... 1373.33 (-2.62)
FT Gold Mines .... 128.0 (+1.5)
FT Fixed interest . 100.50 (-0.29)
FT Govt Secs .... 87.22 (-0.20)
Bargains 38173
SEAQ Volume 538.4m
USM (Datastrm) . 139.66 (-0.94)

TRADITIONAL OPTIONS

First Dealings	Last Dealings	Last Declaration	For Settlement
March 2	March 13	June 11	June 22

Call options were taken out on 6/3/92: Auto Sec, Aviva Petroleum, Bridgend, BTR Wts 92/3, Enterprise Computer, GRE, Meekatharra Ops, Maddox, NSM pref, Proteus. Puts: General Accident, Regalian Properties. Puts & Calls: Oliver Res, Premier Cons Oil, Wharfedale.

LONDON TRADED OPTIONS

Series		Calls Apr	Calls Jul	Calls Oct	Puts Apr	Puts Jul	Puts Oct
Alld Lyon	600	59	72	88	6½	21	28
(*646)	650	25	42	60	25	43	49
ASDA	30	10	12	13	1½	3½	4½
(*38)	40	-	5½	7½	-	7	8
Bass	525	34	46	63	8½	18	23
(*543)	550	19	33	50	20	30	35
Boots	460	19	28	42	12	22	25
(*459)	500	4½	12	23	41	46	48
Br Airways	260	21	29	36	8	15	19
(*268)	280	10½	17	27	17	27	30
BP	260	12	17	22	8	13½	17
(*262)	280	4	9½	14	21	26	29
Br Steel	70	6	8	10	3½	5½	7
(*74)	80	2	4	6	9	11	12
C & W	600	26	45	60	15	32	38
(*601)	650	8	21	35	50	60	62
CU	460	11	27	33	24	28	35
(*469)	500	2½	12	16	59	60	63
Courtauld	500	43	53	67	7	18	24
(*524)	550	13	27	40	30	44	49
GKN	330	23	34	40	7	14	19
(*353)	360	7	18	22	25	30	36
Grnd Met	850	67	93	-	7	18	-
(*896)	900	33	62	82	24	39	46
ICI	1300	36	80	100	49	64	82
(*1325)	1350	18	55	-	84	97	-
Kingfishr	500	38	47	58	9	21	25
(*520)	550	11	23	34	34	45	50
Ladbroke	220	16	23	27	9	14	18
(*232)	240	-	14	18	-	25	29
Land Sec	420	19	26	32	7½	19	23
(*424)	460	4½	7	15	38	49	50
M & S	300	25	30	38	4½	9	13
(*313)	330	7	14	23	21	24	26
Sainsbury	390	16	25	35	12	20	24
(*390)	420	4½	12	21	33	39	42
Shell	420	33	45	53	4½	9	15
(*442)	460	9	23	29	24	26	32
Smkl Bch	850	64	89	115	14	28	36
(*900)	900	13	60	85	35	50	59
Storehse	110	7	10	13	7	11	13
(*110)	120	3	5	9	14	17	18
Trafalgar	130	14	18	23	6	12	16
(*135)	140	7½	13	18	12	19	22
Ultramar	240	12	-	-	17	-	-
(*n/a)	260	4½	11½	-	32	-	-
Unilever	900	58	77	105	15	24	31
(*946)	950	25	50	78	38	47	52
Utd Bisc	390	29	40	47	6½	11	17
(*411)	420	8½	21	30	23	27	32

March 6, 1992 Tot: 26476 Call: 11149 Put: 15327 FT-SE Call: 2606 Put: 4806
*Underlying security price.

Series		Calls May	Calls Aug	Calls Nov	Puts May	Puts Aug	Puts Nov
BAA	550	40	51	65	16	25	28
(*560)	600	15	27	40	41	52	55
BAT Ind	600	42	52	62	18	29	37
(*625)	650	17	28	38	45	55	65
BTR	390	16	26	33	21	24	30
(*390)	420	6	14	20	43	45	49
Br Aero	300	42	54	62	11	14	18
(*327)	330	22	36	45	20	28	34
Br Telcm	330	20	27½	31	9	14½	17
(*334)	360	7	13½	17	27	32	34
Cadbury	460	25	39	50	24	29	35
(*465)	500	10	23	32	51	55	58
Guinness	550	53	70	80	9	13	18
(*588)	600	23	38	50	30	35	38
GEC	200	22	25	27	2½	5½	7½
(*214)	220	9½	13	16	10	15	17
Hanson	200	25	28	30½	2½	5	7
(*220)	220	10½	15	18½	8½	12	15
LASMO	200	19	27	33	13	17	18
(*207)	220	10	18	23	26	28	32
Lucas	110	12	17	19	5½	7	10
(*117)	120	7	11	14	10	12	15
P & O	360	35	45	45	21	28	39
(*385)	390	21	33	35	38	43	55
Pilkngtn	120	15	17	20	5	10½	12½
(*127)	130	9	11½	16	10	16	18
Prudential	220	24	28	31	5½	9	12
(*236)	240	10	16	21	15	18	21
RTZ	500	47	62	72	10	18	24
(*539)	550	19	34	44	37	44	47
Scot New	420	48	55	61	6½	13	16
(*452)	460	22	30	39	21	31	35
Tesco	260	13	21	27	12	15	18
(*260)	280	5½	12	17	25	27	29
Thames W	360	36	39	45	11	21	25
(*375)	390	18	23	30	23	36	39
Vodafone	360	25	32	42	15	21	24
(*359)	390	11	19	28	33	37	41

FT-SE INDEX (*2533)

	2450	2500	2550	2600	2650	2700
Calls						
Mar	105	67	38	17	7	3
Apr	155	116	87	61	44	29
May	160	140	110	85	64	47
Jun	190	158	130	107	80	60
Dec	-	240	-	180	-	135
Puts						
Mar	15	28	50	85	127	175
Apr	50	67	89	118	140	180
May	62	78	100	130	160	196
Jun	68	85	105	140	162	198
Dec	-	110	-	155	-	210

Series		Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Calls Sep	Puts Mar	Puts Jun	Puts Sep
Abby Nat	280	5	17	23	8	13	16
(*293)	300	2	9	15	23	26	27
Amstrad	30	4	7	8½	1½	4½	5
(*32)	35	1	5	6	5	7	8
Barclays	360	5½	20	28	12	21	27
(*370)	390	1	9½	16	42	43	46
Blue Circ	260	7	16	23	7½	21	26
(*258)	280	2	9	15	24	35	38
Br Gas	240	15	20	25	1½	8	9
(*252)	260	2½	9	14	9½	18	19
Dixons	220	18	29	32	2½	7½	12
(*235)	240	4½	17	20	9	16	22
Eurotnnl	420	43	60	79	4	19	27
(*440)	460	15	42	57	20	37	42
Forte	220	10	18	22	3	11	15
(*226)	240	2½	7½	12	15	25	28
Glaxo	750	39	79	105	9	35	47
(*775)	800	12	54	80	33	60	72
Hawker	750	50	55	-	1	27	-
(*n/a)	800	12	22	-	-	-	-
Hillsdwn	160	10	17	22	3	11	14
(*168)	180	-	8	12	-	24	27
Lonrho	110	12	21	24	4½	10	12
(*118)	120	5½	15	19	9	13½	18
Midland	260	10	24	32	6½	16	22
(*263)	280	5	15	23	21	28	33
Reuter	1150	32	83	113	21	65	78
(*1157)	1200	12	63	88	58	93	105
R-Royce	140	7	14	18	3½	8	9
(*150)	160	2	5	9	17	18	20
Sears	100	6	9	12	3	8	10
(*103)	110	2	5	7	9	13	15
Thm Emi	800	21	52	57	7	22	39
(*808)	850	4	26	33	43	52	68
TSB	130	5½	12	13	3½	7	9½
(*131)	140	1	7	9	9½	12	15
Vaal Reefs	50	6½	10	11	1	3½	5½
(*$54)	60	1	5	6½	6	9	10½
Wellcome	1000	47	97	137	14	47	64
(*1023)	1050	19	69	102	35	75	87
Series		**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**	**Apr**	**Jul**	**Oct**
Fisons	390	20	38	50	16	27	32
(*391)	420	10	25	-	35	45	-
Series		**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**	**May**	**Aug**	**Nov**
Eastrn Elc	250	18	-	-	9½	-	-
(*252)	260	-	28	31	-	24	26
Series		**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Sep**
Natl Pwr	215	10	20	25	3	8½	13
(*221)	235	2	10	14	16	19	23
Scot Pwr	100	5	10½	11	2	5	9
(*103)	110	½	5	6	8	10	16

	Period	Open	High	Low	Close	Volume
FT-SE 100	Mar 92	2537.0	2549.0	2533.0	2547.0	5988
Previous open interest: 40700	Jun 92	2577.5	2587.5	2571.0	2585.5	796
Three Month Sterling	Mar 92	89.58	89.63	89.55	89.58	12044
Previous open interest: 213612	Jun 92	89.79	89.82	89.72	89.78	28500
	Sep 92	90.20	90.20	90.12	90.17	4064
Three Mth Eurodollar	Mar 92	95.61	95.64	95.58	95.63	2235
Previous open interest: 48710	Jun 92	95.28	95.32	95.21	95.28	2765
Three Mth Euro DM	Mar 92	90.32	90.35	90.30	90.34	6605
Previous open interest: 248925	Jun 92	90.59	90.63	90.55	90.60	26378
US Treasury Bond	Mar 92	99-00	99-18	99-00	99-15	130
Previous open interest: 3068	Jun 92	98-13	98-20	97-24	98-12	1627
Long Gilt	Mar 92	96-01	96-10	95-23	96-04	494
Previous open interest: 56155	Jun 92	96-10	96-19	95-29	96-12	48530
Japanese Govmt Bond	Mar 92	102.32	102.32	102.32	102.28	100
	Jun 92	101.99	102.17	101.96	102.08	1262
German Govmt Bond	Jun 92	88.42	88.51	88.21	88.39	73263
Previous open interest: 80918	Sep 92	88.87	88.87	88.82	88.92	102
Three month ECU	Mar 92	89.85	89.85	89.78	89.85	288
Previous open interest: 9603	Jun 92	90.14	90.14	90.07	90.12	468
Euro Swiss Franc	Mar 92	91.95	92.02	91.88	91.91	3191
Previous open interest: 35150	Jun 92	92.35	92.45	92.31	92.34	6849
Italian Govmt Bond	Jun 92	99.27	99.44	99.24	99.39	9405
Previous open interest: 22175	Sep 92	99.33	99.36	99.30	99.40	153

REPORT: Raw and white sugar prices were mostly showing small gains in late afternoon trading in thin conditions. Robusta coffee futures closed lower in fairly quiet trade, pressured by weakness in New York. Cocoa futures closed narrowly mixed in dull trade, after drifting while the market found it's feet after Thursday's fall to 6½ month lows.

LONDON FOX

COCOA

Mar	651-648	May	815-813
May	674-673	Jul	837-831
Jul	702-701	Sep	857-850
Sep	727-726	Dec	881-878
Dec	763-762		
Mar	796-794		Volume: 1903

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Mar	780-770	Nov	877-876
May	803-802	Jan	905-900
Jul	828-827	Mar	921-910
Sep	852-850		Volume: 2597

RAW SUGAR (FOB)

C Czarnikow		Dec	188.8-87.8
Spot: n/a		Mar	188.6-86.6
May	181.2-81.0	May	189.6-87.6
Aug	185.4-85.6	Aug	191.0-87.0
Oct	187.0-86.0		Volume: 71

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Dec	261.2-59.5
Spot: unq		Mar	263.3-61.5
May	263.4-62.8	May	267.8-64.0
Aug	265.9-65.1	Aug	272.8-66.0
Oct	259.3-58.5		Volume: 840

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on March 6

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	95.41	102.05	108.12
(+/-)	-0.02	-0.11	-0.08
Eng/Wales:	95.41	102.41	107.31
(+/-)	-0.02	+0.19	-0.54
(%)	-0.4	-6.7	-6.5
Scotland:	n/a	101.15	110.98
(+/-)	n/a	-0.90	+1.65
(%)	n/a	-41.4	-12.6

LONDON MEAT FUTURES

Live Pig (Pig)

	Open	Close		Open	Close
Mar	120.5	120.6	May	118.5	118.6
Apr	119.3	119.6		Volume: 37	

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)
Mar 123.55
May 126.60
Jun 128.35
Sep 112.90
Nov 116.05
Volume: 431

BARLEY (close £/t)
Mar 114.30
May 117.40
Sep 108.25
Nov 112.00
Jan 115.75
Volume: 5

HI-PRO SOYA (close £/t)
Apr 130.50
Jun 126.50
Aug 128.00
Oct 130.50
Dec 134.00
Volume: 0

POTATO

(£/t)	Open	Close
Apr	120.0	120.5
May	144.5	144.3
Jun	unq	145.0
		Volume: 105

RUBBER
No 1 RSS Cif (p/k)
Apr 53.25-52.75

LONDON OIL REPORTS (ICIS-LOR) - **London 6.00pm:** Some pre-weekend length liquidation saw prices drift lower in thin activity.

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	17.30	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Mar)	17.45	-0.10
Brent 15 day (Apr)	*17.50*	*-0.10*
W Texas Intermediate (Apr)	18.60	-0.15
W Texas Intermediate (May)	18.75	-0.15

PRODUCTS ($/MT)
Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

	Bid	Offer
Premium Gas .15	196 (-1)	199 (-1)
Gasoil EEC	157 (-3)	157 (-2)
Non EEC 1H Mar	156 (-3)	157 (-3)
Non EEC 1H Apr	157 (-3)	158 (-3)
3.5 Fuel Oil	72 (+1)	74 (+1)
Naphtha	178 (+2)	180 (+2)

IPE FUTURES
GNI Ltd

GAS OIL

Mar	157.00-57.25	Jun	160.25-60.50
Apr	157.50-57.75	Jul	163.00-63.25
May	158.25 BID	Aug	165.25-65.50
			Vol: 11304

BRENT (6.00pm)

Apr	17.45-17.48	Jul	n/a
May	17.52-17.53	Aug	17.50-17.65
Jun	17.57-17.60		Vol: 14409

UNLEADED GASOLINE

Apr	199.00-02.50	Jul	201.00-07.00
May	203.00-05.25	Aug	195.00-05.00
Jun	205.00 BID		Vol: 341

BIFFEX
GNI Ltd ($10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Mar 92	1285	1275	1290
Apr 92	1354	1340	1340
May 92	1330	1325	1343
Jul 92	1160	1150	1168

Vol: 141 lots. Open int'st: 2725 Index 1227 n/c

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A (£/tonne)	1296.0-1297.0	1320.0-1321.0	470800
Lead (£/tonne)	301.55-302.00	311.05-311.50	6700
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1207.5-1208.0	1212.5-1213.0	425400
Tin ($/tonne)	5638.0-5640.0	5670.0-5675.0	5815
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1281.0-1282.0	1305.0-1306.0	711550
Nickel ($/tonne)	7525.0-7530.0	7590.0-7591.0	20658

Exchange index compared with 1985 was down at 89.9 (day's range 89.9-90.1).

Mkt Rates for March 6	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	3.2218-3.2315	3.2284-3.2315	¼-⅛pr	⅝-½pr
Brussels	58.84-59.09	58.98-59.09	6-3pr	14-9pr
Copenhagen	11.0951-11.1215	11.1058-11.1189	¾-⅜pr	1⅛-⅝pr
Dublin	1.0726-1.0750	1.0740-1.0750	2pr-2ds	7pr-7ds
Frankfurt	2.8637-2.8706	2.8677-2.8706	¼-⅛pr	⅝-⅜pr
Lisbon	245.66-247.29	246.33-247.29	49-68ds	182-202ds
Madrid	180.50-180.87	180.54-180.79	26-31ds	82-94ds
Milan	2149.29-2152.87	2149.71-2152.30	2-4ds	8-10ds
Montreal	2.0358-2.0422	2.0358-2.0378	0.58-0.53pr	1.06-0.99pr
New York	1.7136-1.7222	1.7136-1.7143	0.91-0.89pr	2.56-2.54pr
Oslo	*11.2190-11.2448*	*11.2309-11.2441*	*⅝-⅜pr*	*⅝-¼pr*
Paris	9.7282-9.7549	9.7341-9.7467	½-¼pr	¾-¼pr
Stockholm	10.3824-10.4058	10.3930-10.4058	¼-1⅛ds	3-3¾ds
Tokyo	225.63-226.64	225.85-226.11	1-⅞pr	3⅛-3pr
Vienna	20.13-20.21	20.18-20.21	2⅛-1⅞pr	4⅜-2⅞pr
Zurich	2.6020-2.6201	2.6064-2.6092	⅝-⅜pr	1⅛-1⅞pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

Argentina peso*	1.7065-1.7093
Australia dollar	*2.2726-2.2755*
Bahrain dinar	0.6435-0.6515
Brazil cruzeiro*	2868.92-2870.93
Cyprus pound	0.7975-0.8075
Finland marka	7.795-7.855
Greece drachma	328.90-332.10
Hong Kong dollar	13.3079-13.3175
India rupee	47.30-47.70
Kuwait dinar KD	0.5045-0.5105
Malaysia ringgit	4.4023-4.4084
Mexico peso	5225-5325
New Zealand dollar	3.1314-3.1391
Saudi Arabia riyal	6.4025-6.4825
Singapore dollar	2.8433-2.8485
S Africa rand (fin)	6.4112-6.5372
S Africa rand (com)	4.9409-4.9490
U A E dirham	6.27-6.35

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank.*

Australia	1.3236-1.324
Austria	*11.72-11.7*
Belgium (Com)	34.27-34.3
Canada	1.1872-1.187
Denmark	6.4730-6.478
France	5.6400-5.645
Germany	1.6620-1.663
Hong Kong	7.7507-7.751
Ireland	1.6045-1.606
Italy	1245.0-1248.
Japan	131.10-131.2
Malaysia	2.5640-2.566
Netherlands	*1.8795-1.881*
Norway	6.5450-6.550
Portugal	143.35-143.5
Singapore	1.6560-1.658
Spain	105.10-105.2
Sweden	6.0570-6.062
Switzerland	1.5165-1.517

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 10½ Finance Hse 11
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 10¾ Low 10¼ Week fixed: 10⅜
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 10⅛ ; 3 mth 9⅞ . Sell: 2 mth 10 ; 3 mth: 9¾ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	10 11/32-9/32	10 5/32-10⅛	10 1/16-1/32	9¾-9 11/16	
Sterling Money Rates:	10⅝-10 9/16	10 9/16-10 7/16	10½-10⅜	10½-10⅜	10⅝-10 9/16
Interbank:	10 19/32-17/32	10½-10 7/16	10½-10⅜	10 7/16-10⅜	10⅝-10 9/16

Overnight: open 11⅛, close 9 .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Local Authority Deps:	10½	n/a	10⅜	10 7/16	10¼
Sterling CDs:	10 9/16-10½	*10 7/16-10 13/32*	*10⅜-10 11/32*	*10 5/16-10¼*	*10¼-10 3/16*
Dollar CDs:	4.33-4.28	4.33-4.28	4.33-4.28	4.48-4.43	5.00-4.95
Building Society CDs:	10 19/32-17/32	10 15/32-10 7/16	10 11/32-10⅜	10⅜-10 5/16	10 5/16-10¼

TREASURY BILLS: Applcs: £1,951m allotted: £500m; Bids: £97.53 % received: 96%; Last week: £97.57 % received: 54%; Avge rate: £9.8971 % last wk £9.7383 %. Next week: £500m.

Bullion: Open $350.60-350.90 **Close:** $349.50-350.00 **High:** $351.40-351.90 **Low:** $348.85-349.35 **Krugerrand:** $349.00-350.00 (£203.50-204.50)
Sovereigns: Old $84.00-85.00 (£48.50-49.50) New $85.50-86.50 (£49.00-50.00)
Platinum: $363.60 (£210.70) **Silver:** $4.17 (£2.425) **Palladium:** $84.00 (£48.70)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	4 3/16-3 11/16	4 5/16-4 1/16	4⅜-4⅛	4½-4¼	4⅛-3¾
Deutschemark:	9 11/16-9 9/16	9 11/16-9 9/16	9 11/16-9 9/16	9⅝-9½	9¼-8¾
French Franc:	10 1/16-9⅞	10 1/16-9⅞	10 1/16-9⅞	10-9⅞	10-
Swiss Franc:	8⅝-8¼	8 5/16-8 3/16	8⅛-8	7 15/16-13/16	8-
Yen:	5½-5¼	5⅝-5⅛	4 15/16-13/16	4 13/16-11/16	5½-4½

England cricket captain's faith rewarded

Gooch basking in reflected glory of Botham's success

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT, IN SYDNEY

THE Botham Factor has numbered among the enigmas of modern sport. Ten years ago, it was regarded with awe around the cricketing world. More recently, it has been regarded with mocking affection. When Graham Gooch brought Botham back for this World Cup, he was risking his own reputation, as well as the slightly tarnished one of the man in question.

With Botham, it has always been the same. If he fires, England win and the country rejoices with its hero; if he flops, the team invariably flops with him, and the firearms of censure are turned mercilessly on him and those foolish enough to have trusted him.

In recent years, Botham has lived quietly. Even when his bowling settled a one-day game with West Indies last spring, or when his Test match comeback in late summer ended with him hitting the winning four, nobody seriously believed Botham was more than the ageing idol making a final curtain call or two.

Well, nobody except Botham and Gooch, anyway. Botham is a man driven by the elusive. He has achieved almost everything cricket has to offer, but he has never won the World Cup. Gooch, being in a similar situation, recognised the symptoms.

It was Gooch who stood out for the inclusion of Botham, even though it went against the grain to accommodate his commitments to a pantomime season. Gooch knew the decision would be criticised; he even appreciated why. He knew, too, that if Botham's form, or, even worse, his fitness, failed him at the crucial time, the buck would stop with the captain.

He went ahead, trusting his instinct. The result, to date, has been two man-of-the-match awards for Botham and several thousand shrinking English faces in this otherwise funereal city. Sydney yesterday became a place in which the poms were proud and "Beefy" was king.

As ever when Botham performs, perspective is problematical. England, admittedly without him, lost the Ashes sickeningly here a year ago. A single one-day win over Australia cannot by any stretch of jingoism compensate for that. Even the World Cup itself would be an artificial substitute.

But, as Gooch often says, you can only win the games put before you, and England are making a habit of that. They have now won nine successive completed one-day games; it would have been ten but for the rain that saved Pakistan last Sunday.

They are plainly the best team in this competition. The vagaries of the limited-overs game being so fickle, this is not to say they will win the Cup, but it certainly means they should. Gooch would then become still more of a national hero, not least for his courage in picking Botham and his canny method of treating him.

Gooch grew up in an England team led by Mike Brearley. He saw at close quarters the psychology Brearley increasingly used to ignite the inspiration that lurked within Botham. He heard Brearley tell Botham that he was bowling so sluggishly his own grandmother would be quicker, and he witnessed the enraged result. The memory lingered.

Botham may be a mellower man these days but he still rises to the bait. Systematically, Gooch has goaded him with gentle insults about his bowling, his bulk and his batting; some to his face, others filtered out to the media. Through it all, he has privately been confident that his man would do the job; he just wanted to be sure.

Statistics tell one part of the story. Botham's 53 on Thursday was his first batting contribution but his bowling, the understated suit, has been a revelation. His 40 overs have produced nine wickets for 100 runs.

The eyes tell the rest of the tale. Botham's bowling has not been flattered, even if he has followed his usual ritual of taking wickets with ordinary balls. He has rediscovered the leg-cutter and he has made the ball swing consistently. His control has been impeccable. Moreover, he has lost significant ballast from his girth and looks all the better for it.

But it is important to stress, as Botham himself has done, that this is not a one-man show. Trite though it may sound, England's campaign is structured on a foundation of teamwork. "Everything is done together, nobody is left out," Micky Stewart, the England manager, insists.

Ironically, the one man who probably has felt left out gives the gauge to how well England have played. Allan Lamb was considered a vital link in the World Cup side but so far he has not been missed.

The halfway point has been reached in the qualifying games and all that can be said with any confidence is that New Zealand and England ought to reach the last four, and Zimbabwe surely cannot. Two places remain to be scrapped over by six teams.

Sri Lanka have occupied a false position but one more surprise, to add to their defeat of South Africa, could see them through. Tomorrow night, they play England at Ballarat, a Victorian country town, and, incredibly, expect to fill more than half of the 10,000 capacity ground with their own supporters.

West Indies are brittle, their impulsive batting persistently failing and their bowling too reliant on Ambrose and Marshall. South Africa's win against them was no freak. If South Africa's seam bowlers can repeat their form in Brisbane tonight, they will beat the disappointing Pakistanis too, and then the semi-finals will await them.

India, decidedly unlucky so far, and Australia, riven by sudden self-doubts, could yet both qualify, but the likelihood is it will be one or the other.

	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
New Zealand	4	4	0	0	8	+1.08
England	4	3	0	1	7	+0.65
Sri Lanka	4	2	1	1	5	–0.02
South Africa	4	2	2	0	4	+0.05
West Indies	4	2	2	0	4	–0.10
India	4	1	2	1	3	+0.23
Pakistan	4	1	2	1	3	–0.03
Australia	4	1	3	0	2	–0.46
Zimbabwe	4	0	4	0	0	–1.08

Net run-rate (NRR) is the difference between batting and bowling rates. Runs scored in no-result matches are not included. The top four teams qualify for semi-finals.

☐ Not including India v Zimbabwe and Australia v Sri Lanka.

FIXTURES (all times GMT): Today: New Zealand v West Indies (Auckland, 21.30; live coverage by Sky Sports); Pakistan v South Africa (Brisbane, 23.30; live coverage by Sky Sports). Tomorrow: England v Sri Lanka (Ballarat, 23.30). March 8: India v West Indies (Wellington); South Africa v Zimbabwe (Canberra). 11: Australia v Pakistan (Perth); India v New Zealand (Dunedin). 12: England v South Africa (Melbourne); Sri Lanka v West Indies (Bert). 13: Australia v Zimbabwe (Hobart). 14: England v New Zealand (Wellington); India v South Africa (Adelaide). 15: Pakistan v Sri Lanka (Perth). 17: New Zealand v Pakistan (Christchurch); England v Zimbabwe (Albury). 18: Australia v West Indies (Melbourne). 20: First semi-final (Auckland). 22: Second semi-final (Sydney). 25: Final (Melbourne).

PREVIOUS RESULTS: New Zealand 248-8 (M D Crowe 100 not out, K R Rutherford 57); Australia 211 (D C Boon 100); England 236-9 (R A Smith 91, G A Gooch 51); India 227 (R T Shastri 57); Pakistan 220-2 (Ramiz Raja 102, Javed Miandad 57 not out); West Indies 221-0 (D L Haynes 98 not out, B C Lara 88 retired hurt); Zimbabwe 313-4 (A Flower 115 not out, A C Waller 83 not out, K J Arnott 52); Sri Lanka 314-7 (A Ranatunga 88 not out, H A P Samarasekera 76, R S Mahanama 59); Sri Lanka 208-9 (R S Mahanama 80), New Zealand 210-4 (K R Rutherford 65 not out, J G Wright 57); Australia 170-9; South Africa 171-1 (K C Wessels 81 not out).

West Indies 157 (K L T Arthurton 54), England 160-4 (G A Gooch 65, G A Hick 54); Pakistan 254-4 (Aamer Sohail 114, Javed Miandad 69), Zimbabwe 201-7; India 1-0 v Sri Lanka — no result; West Indies 284-8 (B C Lara 72, C L Hooper 69, R B Richardson 66); Zimbabwe 156-7 (A Shah 60 not out, D L Houghton 55); South Africa 190-7 (P N Kirsten 80), New Zealand 191-3 (M J Greatbatch 86, R T Latham 60); Australia 237-8 (D M Jones 90), India 234 (M Azharuddin 93); Pakistan 74, England 24-1 — no result; South Africa 185, Sri Lanka 198-7 (R S Mahanama 58, A Ranatunga 64 not out); New Zealand 163-3 (M D Crowe 74 not out, A H Jones 57), Zimbabwe 105-7; India 216 (S R Tendulkar 54 not out), Pakistan 173 (Aamer Sohail 62); South Africa 200-8 (P N Kirsten 56), West Indies 136 (A L Logie 61; M W Pringle 4 for 11). Australia 173 (T M Moody 51; I T Botham 4 for 31); England 173-2 (G A Gooch 58, I T Botham 53).



Captain and coach: Gooch returns to Melbourne yesterday after the England players left their Ballarat hotel on discovering their beds were too small

Sydney police deny claims they were 'heavy-handed'

TWENTY-SIX spectators were arrested and 31 more ejected from the ground during Thursday night's World Cup match between Australia and England in Sydney, police said yesterday. But they rejected claims by England supporters that they had overreacted and been heavy-handed.

A police spokesman said the arrests had been made for a range of offences, including offensive behaviour, entering the playing field, streaking, using drugs and throwing missiles.

Sgt John Thompson, who was in charge of the police operation, said he had decided it was appropriate to have a significant police presence for the game, which attracted a crowd of more than 38,000 people, and 100 officers had been on duty.

"Each match is put into a category, whether it's a maximum crowd, whether it's going to be a volatile crowd, who's playing, any social and political implications, and so on," Sgt Thompson said. "We didn't go overboard with police."

One English supporter, Tim Beale, aged 22, from Nottingham, was quoted in yesterday's *Sydney Morning Herald* as saying the "missile" he threw, and was arrested over, was only a silver party streamer. But a spokesman for the New South Wales sports minister, George Souris, said the Sydney cricket ground trust by-laws prohibit the throwing of material of any sort, including streamers.

Pamela Brown, aged 23, from Derby, claimed she had been thrown out of the ground for swearing. "The whole ground was using offensive language so I don't know why they didn't just throw everyone out," she said.

☐ **Adelaide:** Thirteen young cricketers leave today for a tour of South Africa, the first Australian team to make an official visit to the republic since 1970.

The Australian Institute of Sport cricket academy side will play four three-day games and four limited-overs matches against South African provincial under-23 teams during a month-long tour.

The academy coach, Rodney Marsh, and his assistant, Richard Done, will be conducting multi-racial coaching clinics on the trip.

The players will also visit black townships in all leading centres.

"I think it's a wonderful opportunity because at some stage these guys are going over to play Test cricket in South Africa," Marsh, the former Australia wicketkeeper, said. *(Agencies)*

TENNIS

Donar makes a clean sweep of Davis Cup squad

BY ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IT WOULD be nice to predict that the future of Swedish tennis was glimpsed in Eastbourne yesterday, but, despite Johan Donar's 6-3, 7-5 win over Chris Wilkinson in the final of the £50,000 LTA Satellite Masters, the reality is somewhat different.

Donar is 25, is more Wilander than Edberg in looks and, though he hails from Stockholm, has a transatlantic twang developed during four years at the University of Miami. He is ranked 34 in Sweden — and 500 in the world — and the fact that he has cut a swathe through the ranks of the British Davis Cup team, defeating Danny Sapsford, Chris Bailey, Jeremy Bates and, yesterday, Wilkinson, on his way to his first tour title lends perspective to the British revival.

To be fair, under the strange scoring system that governs satellites, nine ranking points were on offer for Donar, only one for Wilkinson, so the Swede had an extra incentive. But, having been beaten by Wilkinson three times in the last three weeks, Donar would have been-hauled before the stewards to explain his unexpected improvement, had the rules of racing been in force. Wilkinson, who came to within two points of levelling the match in the second set, was at a loss to explain his own indifferent performance.

"It wasn't tiredness. Maybe I was complacent to begin with and he played better than the other times," he said. His frustration led to a code violation for racket abuse when he was broken back to 4-5 in the second set. Having led 5-2, he lost the next five games.

Wilkinson's next stop is a satellite tournament in France. He has also set his sights on qualifying for the Olympics. "I really want to do it because it's the Olympics and when I'm old and decrepit I want to be able to tell my grandchildren I competed in the Olympics," he said.

Donar's priority was to bank his cheque for £925, which will pay for his airfare to Miami where he hopes to qualify for the Lipton next week. He has made a profit of about £400 for his month's work on the satellite. But, at least, as a graduate of marketing and finance he should spend it wisely.

RESULTS: Singles: Final: J Donar (Swe) bt C Wilkinson (Hants), 6-3, 7-5. Doubles: Final: K Ullyett and B Curry (SA) bt M Barnard and R Koenig (SA), 6-4, 7-6.

HOCKEY

Havant on verge of another title

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

A WIN at home for Havant against Hounslow today will enable them to retain the first division title in the Pizza Express National League. Any other result will send both teams into decisive matches tomorrow, when Havant entertain East Grinstead and Hounslow visit St Albans.

If the match between Havant and Hounslow is drawn, victory for Havant over East Grinstead will give them the championship.

Hounslow, who are attempting a league and cup double, will be without Grimley, who has not recovered from a back injury sustained during the Champions Trophy in Karachi. As Fordham is not available, they have a problem filling a gap in the middle line. Otherwise, both sides are at full strength.

Indian Gymkhana must avoid defeat at **Stourport** tomorrow to have any hope of survival in the first division. This is Gymkhana's last match, whereas **Welton** and **Bournville**, also fighting relegation, have two more matches to play.

Canterbury, hoping to accompany **Surbiton** into the first division next season, have to win their two remaining matches in order to overhaul **Guildford**. Tomorrow they will be at home to **Warrington**, and on March 15 play **Harborne**. They are relying on Kerly to get the goals they need.

ROWING

Oxford lead the field

OXFORD lead off 125 crews in the Reading Head this afternoon and, in the absence of Cambridge and Leander, are clear favourites to retain the trophy.

Imperial College, starting second and impressive recent winners at Burway, could push them hardest and Isis, the Oxford reserve boat, which has been operating well against its senior counterparts in training, should move up from its starting place of thirteenth.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

FA Cup
Sixth round

Portsmouth v Nottm Forest
Southampton v Norwich
(Both all-ticket)

Barclays League
First division

Everton v Oldham
Luton v Crystal Palace
QPR v Manchester City
Sheffield Wed v Coventry
Tottenham v Leeds (all ticket)
Wimbledon v Notts County

Second division

Bristol R v Blackburn (all ticket)
Charlton v Millwall
Grimsby v Barnsley
Middlesbrough v Cambridge
Newcastle v Brighton
Oxford v Swindon
Plymouth v Derby
Watford v Ipswich
Wolves v Bristol C

Third division

Bournemouth v Peterborough
Bradford v Darlington
Chester v Bury
Fulham v Exeter
Huddersfld v Shrewsbury
Leyton Orient v Reading
Preston v Brentford
Stoke v Hull
Torquay v Wigan

Fourth division

Aldershot v Northampton
Burnley v Barnet
Chesterfield v Cardiff
Hereford v Doncaster
Lincoln v Mansfield
Maidstone v Scarborough
Rochdale v Gillingham
Rotherham v Wrexham
Walsall v Scunthorpe
York v Crewe

GM Vauxhall Conference

Barrow v Slough
Boston v Bath
Colchester v Gateshead
Kidderminster v Witton
Merthyr v Altrincham
Redbridge v Northwich
Runcorn v Macclesfield
Stafford v Cheltenham
Telford v Welling
Yeovil v Wycombe

Tennents Scottish Cup
Fifth round

Celtic v Morton
Hibernian v Airdrie

B and Q Scottish League
Premier division

Dunfermline v Dundee Utd
St Johnstone v St Mirren

First division

Ayr v Hamilton
Clydebank v Partick
Dundee v Stirling
Forfar v Meadowbank
Raith v Montrose

Second division

Albion v Alloa
Brechin v Berwick
Clyde v Queen of South
Dumbarton v East Stirling
East Fife v Arbroath
Queen's Park v Cowdenbeath
Stranraer v Stenhousemuir

FA VASE: Sixth-round replay: Wimborne v Diss.

DIADORA LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Grays; Bishop's Stortford v Marlow; Bromley v Carshalton; Chesham v Hayes; Enfield v Hendon; Harrow v St Albans; Kingstonian v Dagenham; Sutton United v Aylesbury; Windsor and Eton v Staines; Wivenhoe v Wokingham; Woking v Bognor Regis. First division: Abingdon Town v Chalfont St Peter; Barking v Molesey; Boreham Wood v Yeading; Croydon v Hitchin; Heybridge Swifts v Stevenage; Leyton-Wingate v Maidenhead; Tooting and Mitcham v Harlow; Uxbridge v Dulwich; Walton and Hersham v Aveley; Wembley v Dorking. Second division: Berkhamsted v Ware; Billericay v Metropolitan Police; Egham v Worthing; Hanwell v Witham; Hemel Hempstead v Saffron Walden; Leatherhead v Hungerford; Malden Vale v Rainham; Newbury v Lewes; Purfleet v Barton Rovers; Southall v Banstead; Southwick v Ruislip Manor. Third division: Cove v Feltham and Hounslow Bracknell; Edgware v Petersfield; Epsom and Ewell v Kingsbury; Haskwell Heath v Hertford; Hampton v Chertsey; Horsham v Camberley; Royston v Collier Row; Thame v Clapton; Tilbury v Tring.

NFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division: Accrington v Gainsborough; Chorley v Marine; Droylsden v Horwich; Emley v Morecambe; Goole v Fleetwood; Leek Town v Matlock; Moseley v Pickley Ath; Shepshed Alliton v Bishop Auckland; Southport v Hyde; Whitley Bay v Bangor City. First division: Alfreton v Workington; Caernarfon v Bridlington Town; Colwyn Bay v Rossendale; Eastwood Town v Knowsley; Harrogate v Curzon Ashton; Irlam v Warrington; Newtown v Fersley Celtic; Radcliffe Borough v Winsford; Rhyl v Netherfield; Worksop v Guiseley.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: Bashley v Weaidstone; Corby v Gravesend and Northfleet; Dorchester v Cambridge City; Fisher v Crawley; Gloucester v Dartford; Moor Green v Worcester; Poole v Dover; Trowbridge v Chelmsford; VS Rugby v Bromsgrove; Waterlooville v Burton. Southern division: Ashford v Fareham; Braintree v Witney; Canterbury v Sittingbourne; Dunstable v Margate; Erith and Belvedere v Havant; Hastings v Baldock; Hythe v Buckingham; Newport IOW v Sudbury; Salisbury v Gosport; Weymouth v Andover. Midland division: Alvechurch v Sutton Coldfield; Bedworth v Stourbridge; Bilston v Yate; Bridgnorth v Newport AFC; Hednesford v Barry; Hinckley v Redditch; King's Lynn v Nuneaton; RC Warwick v Grantham; Rushden v Leicester United; Stroud v Solihull; Tamworth v Dudley.

NEVILLE OVENDEN COMBINATION: Arsenal v Watford; Portsmouth v Wimbledon (2.0); Reading v Brighton (2.0).

BASS IRISH CUP: Quarter-finals: Ballymena v Oxford Utd; Glenavon v Ards; Linfield v Cliftonville; Portadown v Crusaders.

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Second round: Moyola Park v Limerick.

BASS NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Atherton LR v Flixton; Bacup Borough v Nantwich; Bradford Park Avenue v Great Harwood; Clitheroe v Bootle; Eastwood Hanley v Blackpool Rovers; St Helens v Maine Road (Man); Vauxhall GM v Skelmersdale.

ABACUS WELSH LEAGUE: National division: Briton Ferry v Haverfordwest; Cwmbran v Brecon; Ferndale v Bridgend; Inter Cardiff v Allen Lido; Maesteg v Aberjaverony; Pembroke v Ebbw Vale; Ton Pentre v Caldicot; Llanelli v Aberystwyth.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bideford v Elmore; Chippenham v Chard; Clevedon v Dawlish; Mangotsfield v Liskeard; Paulton v Exmouth; Tiverton v Taunton; Welton v Plymouth Argyle; Weston-super-Mare v Minehead.

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Cornard v Lowestoft; Halstead v Great Yarmouth; Haverhill v Walton; March v Clacton; Newmarket v Chatteris; Thetford v Harwich and Parkeston; Tiptree v Wisbech; Wroxham v Brantham.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Harrogate RA; Eccleshill v Armthorpe Welfare; Glasshoughton Wel v Denaby Utd; Liversedge v Winterton Rangers; Maltby MW v Thackley; Ossett Albion v North Shields; Sheffield v Ossett Town; Spennymoor v Brigg; Sutton Town v North Ferriby.

NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Billingham Synthonia v Blyth Spartans; Brandon v Whickham; Ferryhill v Tow Law; Gretna v Shildon; Langley Park Welfare v Guisborough; Newcastle Blue Star v Murton; Northallerton v Easington Colliery; Seaham Red Star v Consett; West Auckland v South Bank; Whitby v Peterlee Newtown.

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Arthur Dunn Cup: Lancing Old Boys v Old Etonians. Premier division: Old Chigwellians v Old Carthusians; Old Malvernians v Old Brentwoods; Old Reptonians v Old Cholmeleians. First division: Old Haileyburians v Old Harrovians; Old Salopians v Old Wellingburians; Old Westminsters v Old Bradfordians.

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: First division: Old Beadonians v Old Grammarians; Old Owens v Colpoas; Parkfield v Wilton; Southgate County v Old Finchleians; St Mary's College v Mill Hill Village.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: C Manning v Old Tenisonians; Old Meadonians v Latymer; Glyn v Old Danes; Old Isleworthians v Enfield; Old Aloysians v Old Owens; Phoenix v Old Ignatians.

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Carshalton v Nat West Bank; Civil Service v Midland Bank; Old Actonians v Norsemen; Old Bromleians v West Wickham; Old Parkonians v Old Esthamians; Alexandra Park v East Barnet OG; Broomfield v Crouch End Vandals; Old Stationers v Barclays Bank; South Bank Poly v Old Salesians, Southgate Olympic v Polytechnic, Bank of England v Cusco; Brentham v Alleyn Old Boys; Kew Association v Merton; Lensbury v Old West Otts; Old Lyonians v Royal Bank; Reigate Priory v Old Latymerians.

UNDER-15 INTERNATIONAL: England v Netherlands (Wembley).

RUGBY UNION

2.30 unless stated

Five nations' championship

England v Wales (at Twickenham, 2.45)
Scotland v France (at Murrayfield)

B international

Italy v England (Rome, 2.0)

Courage Clubs Championship
Third division

Nuneaton v Otley

Fourth division north

Kendal v Walsall

Fourth division south

Maidstone v North Walsham (3.0)
Southend v Sudbury

Club matches

Askeans v Loughboro Univ (12.0)
Boroughmuir v W Hartlepool (12.0)
Havant v Thurrock
Hawick v Roundhay
Jed-Forest v Durham City (12.0)
Leicester v Richmond (3.0)
Liverpool St Helens v Rugby (3.0)
London Irish v Moseley (11.30)
London Scottish v Harlequins (11.0)
London Welsh v Cardiff (11.0)
Newcastle Gosforth v Broughton Pk
Orrell v Coventry (3.0)
Plymouth A v Cheltenham (3.0)
Preston G v Morley (3.0)
Sale v Nottingham (1.0)
Sheffield v Vale of Lune (3.0)
Wakefield v Saracens (3.0)
Waterloo v Headingley (3.0)

Tour matches

Oxford University v Waseda (Japan) (12.0)
Windsor Colts v MRC Tokyo (10.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

British Coal International

Great Britain v France (at Hull, 3.0)

B international

Italy v England (Rome, 2.0)

Courage Clubs Championship
Third division

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London Scottish v Harlequins (11.0)
London Welsh v Cardiff (11.0)
Newcastle Gosforth v Broughton Pk
Orrell v Coventry (3.0)
Plymouth A v Cheltenham (3.0)
Preston G v Morley (3.0)
Sale v Nottingham (1.0)
Sheffield v Vale of Lune (3.0)
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Tour matches

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Windsor Colts v MRC Tokyo (10.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

British Coal International

Great Britain v France (at Hull, 3.0)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

3.0 unless stated

FA Cup
Sixth round

Liverpool v Aston Villa (3.05)

Tennents Scottish Cup
Fifth round

Hearts v Falkirk (3.05)

FAI HARP LAGER CUP: Second round: Bray Wdrs v Galway; Derry v Shelbourne; Drogheda v Cork City; St James's v Fanad Utd; St Patrick's Ath v UCD; Wayside Celtic v Monaghan Utd.

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE: Premier division: Liskeard Athletic v Frome.

RUGBY UNION

Heineken Welsh League
Second division

Abertillery v Glamorgan Wndrs

LANCASHIRE CUP: Final: Widnes v Vale of Lune (at Preston Grasshoppers, 2.30).

CLUB MATCH: Bristol v La Plata (Arg)

RUGBY LEAGUE

STONES BITTER CHAMPIONSHIP: (3.0 unless stated): First division: Castleford v St Helens (3.30); Leeds v Widnes (6.15); Wakefield v Halifax (3.30); Warrington v Hull; Wigan v Hull KR. Second division: Leigh v Workington (3.30); Oldham v Carlisle; Rochdale Hornets v London Crusaders (3.15). Third division: Barrow v Dewsbury (1.0); Batley v Scarborough (3.15); Highfield v Bramley; Hunslet v Chorley (3.30); Keighley v Huddersfield (3.15); Trafford v Whitehaven (3.30).

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Stourport v Indian Gymkhana (King Charles School Kidderminster, 2.30); Bournville v Teddington (Birmingham University, 2.30); Havant v East Grinstead (Havant College, 2.15); Southgate v Welton (Broomfield School, 2.00); St Albans v Hounslow (Clarence Park, 2.00). Second division: Canterbury v Warrington (Polo Farm, 1.00).

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Ford v Pelicans; Norwich City v Harlerton Magpies; Wisbech v Bury St Edmunds.

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: London Towers v Birmingham Bullets (8.0). Second division: Broxbourne v Wars (5.0); Cardiff Buccaneers v Brixton Topcats (4.0); Greenwich v Middlesbrough Mohawks (3.0). Third division: Stevenage Phoenix v Crystal Palace Sonars (3.30). Women: First division: Ipswich v Hemel Hempstead (4.0); Northampton 76'ers v Rhondda (3.30). Second division: Northampton 86'ers v South Tyneside (1.15).

NATIONAL CUP: Sheffield: Men's national trophy: Final: Bury v Oldham (1.0). Men's national cup: Final: Kingston v Thames Valley (5.0). Women's national cup: Final: Sheffield v Thames Valley (3.0).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Billingham Bombers v Murrayfield Racers (5.15); Norwich and Peterborough Pirates v Durham Wasps (6.30); Whitley Warriors v Nottingham Panthers (6.30). First division: Blackburn Blackhawks v Milton Keynes Kings (5.45); Lee Valley Lions v Swindon Wildcats (7.0); Romford Raiders v Trafford Metros (5.15).

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Haringey Racers v Medway Bears (6.0); Oxford City Stars v Solent Vikings (5.30); Solihull Barons v Chelmsford Chieftains (7.0); Streatham Redskins v Sheffield Steelers (6.0).

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Reebok Liverpool City v Newcastle (Staffs) VC. Women: First division: Wessex v Birmingham; Britannia Music v Trafford Volleyball; Ashcombe Dorking I v Dynamo London; Woolwich Brixton v Southgate.

BOWLS

HAVEN CU INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP: Semi-finals: Cyphers IBC v Nottingham IBC; March GER IBC v Darlington IBC.

TENNIS

VAUXHALL INDOOR TROPHY: Women: Area five: Chris Lane Woking v Riverside Chiswick; Royal Berkshire v Walton Indoor.

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA combined indoor championships (Cosford).

BOWLS: English women's national championships (Stevenage); Haven-Commercial Union inter-club championship (Lawson Park, Bedford).

MOTO-CROSS: British championship (Sidcup).

SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (East Kilbride).

TABLE TENNIS: English national championships (Oldham SC).

HOCKEY

PIZZA EXPRESS NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Bournville v St Albans (Birmingham University, 10.30); Bromley v Welton (Edenbridge SC, 2.0); East Grinstead v Cannock (Saint Hill, 2.15); Havant v Hounslow (Havant College, 2.15); Neston v Southgate (Neston RC, 1.0); Teddington v Old Loughtonians (Teddington School, 1.30).

PERONI SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashford v Anchorians; Bognor v Old Midwhitgiftians; Eastcote v Oxford Hawks; High Wycombe v Canterbury; Old Bordenians v Staines, Old Tauntonians v Fareham; Tunbridge Wells v Winchester; Woking v Chichester; Worthing v Marden Russets. Regionals: Hants and Surrey: Basingstoke v Hamble Old Boys; City of Portsmouth v Old Whitgiftians; Epsom v Barnes; Fleet v Walton; Met Police v Nat West Bank; Old Wallcountians v Guan; Orchoft v Southampton University; Oxted v Old Edwardian; Pirelli v Merton, Kent and Sussex: BICC v Burnt Ash; Eastbourne v Lloyds Bank; Midland Bank v Lewes, Mid-Sussex v Thames Poly; Old Beccehamians v Horsham; Old Holcombe v Gravesend; Roch and Gill v Old Williams; Sevenoaks v Herne Bay; Tonbridge v Crowborough. Middlesex, Berkshire, Bucks and Oxon: City of Oxford v Amersham; Gerrards Cross v Southgate Adel; Harrow v Windsor, Hayes v Sunbury; Hendon v Mill Hill, Marlow v Witney; Old Merchant Taylors' v NPL; Ramgharia v Bracknell; Wokingham v Aylesbury.

PIZZA EXPRESS LONDON LEAGUE: Blackheath v Dulwich; Old Kingstonians v Cambridge University; Purley v London University; Weybridge Hawks v Cheam, Wimbledon v Beckenham.

NORWICH UNION EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Bishops Stortford v Bedfordshire Eagles, Broxbourne v Blueharts; Colchester v Crostyx, Westcliff v Peterborough Town; West Herts v Ipswich.

BASKETBALL

CARLSBERG NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Derby Bucks v London Towers (7.30), Worthing Bears v Leicester Riders (8.0). Second division: Plymouth Raiders v Doncaster Eagles (7.30). Third division: Cheshire Bulls v Stevenage Phoenix (6.0); North London v Chiltern Fastbreak (7.30); Sedgefield Racers v Calderdale Explorers (7.30); Sheffield v Mid Sussex Magic (3.30), Solent Stars v Crystal Pal Semors (6.0); Swindon Sonics v Leicester Falcons (7.30). Women: First division: London Central YMCA v London Jets (6.0). Second division: Camberley Golden Eagle v Kings Lynn Phoenix (4.45), Doncaster v Milton Keynes O Cats (4.15). NATIONAL CUP: Sheffield: Junior men's final: Crystal Palace v East London (5.30). National wheelchair final: Oldham v Sheffield (7.30).

ICE HOCKEY

HEINEKEN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Ayr Raiders v Billingham Bombers (6.0); Bracknell Bees v Whitley Warriors (6.0); Cardiff Devils v Murrayfield Racers (6.30); Nottingham Panthers v Humberside Seahawks (6.30). First division: Basingstoke Beavers v Trafford Metros (6.0); Pile Flyers v Milton Keynes Kings (7.15), Slough Jets v Lee Valley Lions (5.45); Telford Tigers v Romford Raiders (7.30).

ENGLISH LEAGUE: Medway Bears v Streatham Redskins (6.0); Sunderland Chiefs v Chelmsford Chieftains (5.30).

VOLLEYBALL

ROYAL BANK NATIONAL LEAGUE: Men: First division: Polonia Ealing v Speedwell Rucanor; Team Mizuno Mallory v Aquila, Wessex v Coventry Rigs; Hilton Leeds v Manchester Utd Women: First division: Wessex v Dynamo London; Ashcombe Dorking I v Woolwich Brixton.

LACROSSE

SOUTH OF ENGLAND LEAGUE: First division: London v Kenton, Hillcroft v Bath; Hitchin v Tatsfield

BRINE NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Heaton Mersey v Ashton; Hulmeians v Stockport; Sale v Sheffield University, Timperley v Sheffield Steelers.

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: AAA combined indoor championships (Cosford)

BOWLS: English women's national championships (Stevenage); Haven-Commercial Union inter-club championship (Lawson Park, Bedford)

ROWING: Reading Head (Reading).

SNOOKER: Forte Hotels matchroom league: Gary Wilkinson v Alison Fisher (Leamington Spa, 8.0).

SWIMMING: British grand prix meeting (East Kilbride)

TABLE TENNIS: English national championships (Oldham SC).

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Points difference dispute hinders British cup hopes

BY KEITH MACKLIN

PREPARATIONS for the World Cup match with France at Hull this afternoon have not gone well for Great Britain.

A host of injuries has depleted the side and the team has a makeshift look about it, particularly with the absence of Hanley, Offiah and Schofield, their key players.

The latest problem for Malcolm Reilly, the coach, and Maurice Lindsay, the manager, is a suggestion that points difference may not ultimately decide which team plays Australia in the World Cup final later this year.

The Rugby Football League (RFL) has taken it for granted that if Great Britain and New Zealand were to finish with the same number of match points, the side with the better scoring difference would go through to face the holders.

Now, it appears that the international board may discuss the possibility of a play-off at the next board meeting in May.

Ron MacGregor, the secretary of the international board and a New Zealander, has refused to acknowledge the fact that points difference will be the telling factor in the final analysis.

Perhaps it is unnecessarily cynical to imply that his attitude is influenced by the fact that Great Britain have a superior scoring difference of 79 points over New Zealand.

David Oxley, chief executive of the RFL, is insistent that points difference has been understood as decisive from the start of the World Cup series, and there will be considerable anger in Britain if the international board rules otherwise and creates a play-off in an already congested season.



Reilly: depleted side

With these irritants hanging over them, Reilly's much-changed squad needs to beat France comfortably to remain in pole position for a final against Australia at Wembley.

Only four players in today's team — Gary Connolly, Lee Crooks, Karl Fairbank and Les Holliday — started the match in Perpignan. Britain won unconvincingly, with a late burst of 18 points, after France had been level at 12-12.

Shaun Edwards captains the side and his half-back partner will be Darryl Powell, who has been playing loose forward for Sheffield Eagles and has played most of his international rugby with Great Britain at centre.

Allan Bateman, the Warrington centre, and Alan Hunte, the St Helens wing, form a new wing partnership and will be particularly anxious to underline their claims to join Reilly's tour party for Australasia.

France make one change, with the experienced Pons coming in on the wing for Garcia. If they play as well as they did in Perpignan, it will not be easy for Britain.

GOLF

Brand's birdies give him the lead

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A SPARKLING 66 swept Gordon Brand Jr into a four-stroke lead at the halfway stage of the Majorca Open on the Santa Ponsa course yesterday. Four birdies in five holes from the 11th helped Brand to a two-round total of 134, ten under par.

The English pair, Ross McFarlane and Barry Lane, and Wayne Riley, the Australian Open champion, are his closest challengers at six under. Severiano Ballesteros, twice a winner in the past and Brand's partner yesterday, is six strokes away in tenth place.

"I'm playing for second place," Ballesteros said with a smile.

Brand, whose most recent victory was the 1989 Benson and Hedges International, is more used to flying home on a Friday night early in the season than flying high. But he said: "I worked harder during the winter than I normally do and I'm playing very nicely. Seve can be a bit domineering, but in a way it helps when you play with him. You have to concentrate."

Brand's birdies began at the 5th, where he pitched to eight feet. A seven-iron to 12 feet two holes later led to the first of three twos. He wedged to ten feet on the 11th, struck a brilliant four-iron to two feet at the 240-yard 12th, then chipped in at the 14th. The sixth birdie was a 30-footer at the next hole.

SCORES (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 134: G Brand Jr, 68, 66. 138: R McFarlane, 68, 70; W Riley (Aus), 68, 70; S Luna, 67, 71. 139: M Hallberg (Swe), 67, 72; G Day (US), 67, 72; V Fernandez (Arg), 69, 70; S Luna (Sp), 69, 70; S Bennett, 69, 70. 140: S Ballesteros (Sp), 70, 70; R Lee, 67, 73; S Grappasonni (It), 70, 70; P Hall, 68, 72. 141: J Haeggman (Swe), 71, 70; P Curry, 70, 71; E Romero (Arg), 70, 71; L Trinkler (Aus), 71, 70; P Baker, 70, 71; J M Canizares (Sp), 68, 73; H Clark, 68, 72; E O'Connell, 71, 70.

142: H Thuel (Ger), 70, 72; C Mason, 68, 74; C Montgomerie, 71, 71; D Edlund (Swe), 73, 69; B Malley (US), 72, 70; P Smith, 69, 73; B Marchbank, 69, 73; J Parnevik (Swe), 70, 72; G Levenson (SA), 71, 71. 143: J Sewell, 72, 71; P Price, 71, 72; J Rivero (Sp), M Lanner (Swe), 72, 71; C Williams, 71, 72; P Broadhurst, 72, 71; M Roe, 70, 73; D Cooper, 68, 74; P Walton, 69, 74; C Moody, 69, 74; C Van der Velde (Neth), 72, 71; T Levet (Fr), 71, 72; G Doll (It), 71, 72.

144: O Vincent (US), 75, 69; T Power (Aus), 73, 71; D R Jones, 72, 72; J Townsend (US), 70, 74; H Sallay-Green, 72, 72; O Nordberg (Swe), 71, 73; P Teravainen (US), 71, 73; I Pellu (Sp), 74, 70; J Caceres (Arg), 73, 71; P Parkin, 75, 69; D Smyth, 72, 72; C Rocca (It), 74, 70; G Evans, 73, 71; M Gates, 73, 71; M A Jiménez (Sp), 69, 75; J Rystrom (Swe), 71, 73; H Baiocchi (SA), 70, 74; R Hartmann (US), 75, 69.

☐ Tom Watson, whose latest win was at the San Antonio Open in 1987, took a seven-stroke lead in the Hong Kong Open after a second-round 66 gave him an 11-under-par 131.



JULIAN HERBERT

Close friends: Nicholson with stable star Waterloo Boy, his leading Cheltenham contender

Nicholson aiming to echo deeds of festivals past

BY RICHARD EVANS
RACING CORRESPONDENT

FACTFILE

Born: Epsom, March 19, 1939.
Riding career: 583 wins over jumps, 1955-74, including 1967 Whitbread Gold Cup on Mill House.
First trainer's licence: 1968.
First winner: Arctic Coral, Warwick, January 9, 1969.
Best season: 1981-82, 67 winners.
Cheltenham festival winners: Charter Party (Gold Cup and Ritz Club Chase), Waterloo Boy (Arkle Trophy), Solar Cloud (Triumph Hurdle), Bigsun (Ritz Club Chase), French Union (Grand Annual Chase).

David Nicholson walked into the kitchen of his Condicote home proudly holding an old plaque. In faded gold lettering above shapes of eight horseshoes an inscription reads: Horses owned or trained by William Holman, Cheltenham, 1843-46.

"He was my great, great grandfather and he *was* Cheltenham," explained the trainer.

A century and a half later "The Duke" is upholding the family tradition. The 52-year-old son of "Frenchie" Nicholson, brought up just a few hundred yards from Prestbury Park, has the heroic deeds of past festivals etched deep in his mind and soul.

He remembers watching Tim Hyde win the Gold Cup with Prince Regent in 1946, recalls the controversial finish involving Silver Fame and Greenogue five years later, and recollects with pride riding festival winners like Current Romance for his father. More recently there have been the training triumphs, capped by Charter Party's Gold Cup win in 1988.

Nicholson and Cheltenham go together as naturally as eggs and bacon or strawberries and cream. The whole year at Condicote is geared to the three days of drama which unfold at jumping's headquarters next week.

The analogy with food is relevant to the man who is second to Martin Pipe in this season's prize-money list despite having less than half the Wellington horsepower.

Just over a year ago Nicholson sought the advice of Dr Derek Cuddeford from the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary Studies at Edinburgh University. The equine nutritionist devised a special vitamin and mineral supplement to give to the 60-strong string. As a result, the horses now "last longer" during a season and, perhaps, during races.

"It's not very often in a yard this size you get horses winning four or five races unless you have run them a dozen times," Nicholson says.

The results speak for themselves. Waterloo Boy, the stable star and currently National Hunt's biggest money-winner, has won four out of five while Gambling Royal, set to carry only 10 stone in the Ritz Club Handicap Chase, is undefeated in five outings.

Shamana, the Arkle Trophy-bound mare sired by Nicholson's beloved Broadsword, has four wins from five runs, the same record as Thetford Forest, who goes for the Sun Alliance Novices' Hurdle.

With 49 winners already this campaign, Nicholson could well beat his previous best of 67 ten years ago. If that prospect is not sufficient incentive, Nicholson can dream of the options available when he moves in the autumn to a purpose-built complex four miles away at Ford.

Jackdaws Corner, sited in a disused quarry, will have 80 boxes, six gallops (half all-weather, half grass) and a hostel for 25 staff.

Ambitions are high, although he realises the "numbers game" gives him little chance of becoming champion. "I could not manage 160 horses mentally," Nicholson says. "It would blow my brains out."

He pauses and chooses his words with care. "I love my horses. They're part of the family and I get very worried when something gets injured or hurt and is no longer with us."

Ford is the future but the Cheltenham festival is more pressing and starts tomorrow for the Nicholsons when the first house guests arrive.

A dozen horses have been pencilled in to run and there is an unmistakable air of confidence. "We are extremely excited and keeping our fingers crossed. We have got a nice runner every day."

Nicholson has deliberately campaigned his stable stars lightly this year so that they reach the festival fresh and well.

Waterloo Boy, second to Barnbrook Again and Katabatic in the past two runnings of the Queen Mother Champion Chase, is trying to make it third time lucky in what should be one of the races of the week. Although Nicky Henderson's Remittance Man will be many punters' banker, Nicholson is confident.

"I hope I am not speaking too soon, but Waterloo Boy is in great form. I just hope Remittance Man and Waterloo Boy jump the last upsides and let the best horse win. If I get beat I shall be the first to say well done to Nicky."

Thetford Forest, so impressive at Warwick recently, is "bubbling" and has schooled and worked particularly well. "Richard [Dunwoody] is very sweet on him," Nicholson adds.

The Ritz Club is one of the most competitive handicaps of the week but it will take something special to stop Gambling Royal's winning run, given his low weight.

Nicholson also speaks fondly of Al Hashimi, who will have a racing weight for the first time this year in the Grand Annual. Then there are Another Coral, King Of The Lot, Viking Flagship and Shamana.

A double, at least, is on the cards. That would take Nicholson's festival tally as a trainer to eight. William Holman would have liked that.

FENCING

Rejuvenated veteran tries to earn Games comeback

BY ALIX RAMSAY

STEVEN Paul will know by tonight whether 15 years' experience and six months' hard work can take the place of regular match practice and qualify him for his fourth Olympics. All he has to do is finish in the top 24 in the Challenge Martini épée finals in London to get into the British squad for Barcelona, the first step in a remarkable comeback.

Paul won the title in 1981 and reached the finals in 1982, but that was at his peak. In 1984 he went to Australia, stayed six years, acquired a wife and family and dropped out of the reckoning in fencing circles. "I won the national title out there three times," he said, "but considering I was doing no training it sums up the standard of competition."

He came back to England nine months ago and, suddenly at the age of 38, heard the call of the Olympics. "At the beginning of the season I went to the first A grade tournament of the year," he said. "I had a good day and got Olympic qualifying points. That spurred me on."

Now training every day with the foil coach, Ziemek Wojciechowski, pounding the London streets and working out with weights he feels he has a good chance of getting back to the top. "I'm lacking a little physical strength; if you don't work at it for a long time the conditioning goes," he said. "The technique is almost as good as it was and mentally I'm strong."

"My approach to Barcelona is different from the other Games. Sports psychology is so important and it's something that interests me. It's easy to let a lot of little things get to you but once you recognise the danger signs you can avoid the problem."

Paul is a member of the famous fencing family founded by his grandfather, Leon, after the first world war. "The standard is very high now," he says. "The Germans, French, Italians and Russians are top nations but they are training every day, virtually as professionals. Here we are still truly amateur."

ATHLETICS

The Poly gets back into full stride

BY DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

RUNNING a marathon in London in over two-and-half hours did not always mean being one of the crowd. When word was out in 1913 that the Swede, Alexis Ahlgren, was a contender to win the Polytechnic Marathon, the Crown Prince of his country considered the occasion worthy of his royal presence.

Ahlgren delivered, becoming Sweden's first winner in 2hr 36min 06sec. The race was only four years old but already into its stride as one of the world's foremost marathons. Seven decades later, despite eight world best times notched on its belt, it died. Or, rather, went into refrigeration. Tomorrow "the Poly" returns for the first time in five years. It has been taken over by Capital Road Runners, who are sponsoring it themselves and seeking a profit to pass on to Barnardos.

The Poly's record-breaking days will never return, but its intentions are still serious. "We hope that, in the future, it will be a race for serious club runners," Ian Ridpath, the race spokesman, said. "We are not into fun-runners or pantomime horses, although a sub-four-hour pantomime horse would be entitled to enter." The field will number only 450 and there will be a four-hour time limit on finishing.

"It is wonderful to know that it is back," Jim Peters, four times a winner in the 1950s, said. "It was the Everest of athletics." The world best had stood to a Korean, Yun Bok Suh, at 2hr 25min 39sec before Peters took to the roads between Windsor and Chiswick in his Woolworth plimsolls.

In three successive years, from 1952, he set world best times of 2:20.42, 2:18.40 and 2:17.40. After a morning's work, of course. Those were amateur days and the dispensing optician had patients who needed their glasses before he went running.

The trophy Peters put his name on, a solid silver statue of Pheidippides, the original marathon runner, donated in 1909 by *The Sporting Life* "to encourage long distance running in Britain", will be back on display tomorrow after five years in pieces in a London basement. *The Sporting Life* has spent £1,000 renovating it, twice the purchase price. It is said now to be valued at £50,000.

It is 27 years since Morio Shigematsu, of Japan, set the last world best on the course. Tomorrow, a former champion, Arthur Keily, who ran 2:19:06 for victory in 1960, will present the awards.

Win a day at the Grand National

MARTELL COGNAC GRAND NATIONAL

THE Times today presents the chance to win a trip to one of the most exciting days of the sporting year, the Martell Grand National, at Aintree on April 4.

We have linked with the sponsor for a competition that offers two splendid first prizes: each one a luxury visit for two people to the big race. Our two winners, each with a friend, will have this timetable of entertainment:

Friday, April 3: travel from home to London, followed by dinner and a night's stay at the Stakis St Ermin's Hotel, Westminster.

Saturday, April 4: travel to Liverpool Lime Street on the exclusive Martell Pullman, with a champagne breakfast; by coach to the racecourse for lunch in the Martell Chalet; reserved seats in the Glenlivet Stand, with excellent views of the racing; afternoon tea; dinner on the Martell Pullman for the journey back to London; another night at the Stakis St Ermin's.

Sunday, April 5: breakfast at the hotel and then rail travel to your home.

For each of the ten runners-up, there will be a bottle of Martell Cognac. Martell, founded in 1715, is the oldest of the leading cognac houses. Eight generations have carried on the family tradition and Martell is now the No. 1 selling cognac in the United Kingdom.

This competition is open to readers who are aged 18 or older. The guests of the winners must also be at least 18 years old.

To enter, study the questions below, write your answers on the entry form and send it (to arrive by March 16, 1992) to: Martell Grand National competition, Sports Department, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.



The winners and runners-up will be the senders of the first 12 correct entries drawn from all those received by March 16.

THE QUESTIONS

1, Which horse was the only first-fence faller in the race last year?
2, Peter Scudamore has yet to win the National but his father, Michael, did. On which horse?
3, Red Rum won the Grand National three times. Which horses finished second?
4, The rider above was the last champion jockey to win the Grand National. Who is he?
5, Who was the last woman to own a Grand National winner?

ENTRY FORM

Name .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

ANSWERS

1 .....

2 .....

3 .....

4 .....

5 .....

CONDITIONS OF ENTRY

Employees (and their relatives) of Times Newspapers Ltd, Martell Cognac or their agents are not eligible for entry. The Sports Editor's decision is final. No correspondence can be entered into.

Prospector's Way worth following

POINT-TO-POINT
BY BRIAN BEEL

THE record of two falls from three outings for Prospector's Way is not encouraging, but his maiden win at Chaddesley Corbett last season showed that he has undoubted class.

He can make amends for his most recent mishap today in the second of the divided qualifiers for *The Times* Championship series at the **Tanatside** point-to-point.

Le Garcon D'Or and Charlie Magpie are short of a run this season so Crow's chance in the first division, on Equity Player, is as good as any.

The other *Times* qualifier is at the **Derwent** where it is touch and go whether Anthea Farrell will be able to make a remarkably quick comeback after breaking a leg just three weeks ago. The Witton Castle winner Devongale would be her mount but now with a 7lb penalty, the balance may be tipped in favour of the Nigel Tutty-ridden Miley Pike.

Royal Sting may improve upon his Horsehearth fourth in the RMC qualifier at the **Dunston** and in the equivalent race at the **North Ledbury**, Stephens Pet should come out best.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Bicester with Whaddon Chase, Mollington 5 miles north of Banbury (first race 12.00). Brocklesby Park, 10m W of Grimsby (2.00); Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray, Parham, 4m SE of Pulborough (1.00), Derwent, Charm Park, 6m SW of Scarborough (12.30); Dunston Harriers, Ampton, 4m N of Bury St Edmunds (12.30), North Ledbury, Upton-on-Severn, 6m S of Worcester (12.30); Silverton, Haldon, 6m S of Exeter (1.00); Tanatside, Eyton-on-Severn, 7m SE of Shrewsbury (12.30); Tynedale, Corbridge, 5m N of town (1.30); Western, Wadebridge, Royal Cornwall Showground, 1m W of town (1.00).

LINGFIELD PARK

MANDARIN

1.55 Witches Coven. 2.25 Toshiba Comet. 2.55 Rapporteur. 3.25 African Chimes. 3.55 Appealing Times. 4.25 Postage Stamp.

THUNDERER

1.55 Keen Wit. 2.25 Toshiba Comet. 2.55 Rapporteur. 3.25 Pytchley Knight. 3.55 Mossy Rose. 4.25 Carlingford.

GOING: STANDARD DRAW: 7F-1M, LOW TO MIDDLE NUMBERS BEST SIS

1.55 PISCES MAIDEN STAKES
(3-Y-O: £2,108: 1m) (7 runners)

1 -840 COURT ROOM 7 (B) A Moore 9-0 ..... B Rouse 6
2 550- DOMINANT SERENADE 137 P Harris 8-0 W Newnes 5
3 -542 GRANITE BOY 4 P Feilden 9-0 ..... A Shoults 4
4 53 TRUMP 10 M Prescott 9-0 ..... G Duffield 3
5 5 KEEN WIT 15 (BF) Lord Huntingdon 8-9 Dean McKeown 1
6 PROVE IT'S GOLD T Jones 8-9 ..... J Williams 2
7 42- WITCHES COVEN 208 M Bell 8-9 ..... M Hills 7

7-4 Witches Coven, 7-2 Keen Wit, 9-2 Granite Boy, 8-1 Trump, 8-1 Dominant Serenade, 12-1 Prove It's Gold, 14-1 Court Room.

2.25 ACE PRIVATE AMBULANCE CARE CLAIMING STAKES (£2,226: 7f) (9)

1 0-08 HITCHIN A RIDE 7 (B) M Muggeridge 5-9-7 J Williams 6
2 -423 MAC'S FIGHTER 28 (B,BF,C,D,F,G) W O'Gorman 7-9-7 Emma O'Gorman (5) 2
3 8411 TOSHIBA COMET 10 (B,C,F,G,S) W Pearce 5-8-6 D Nicholls 5
4 0-01 INVOCATION 7 (CD) A Moore 5-8-7 ..... N Adams 7
5 0166 COURTING NEWMARKET 7 (C) Mrs A Knight 4-8-5 D Biggs (3) 1
6 360- THE SQUARE CENTRE 143 P Burgoyne 4-8-5 T Quinn 3
7 /006 BAY MOUNTAIN 28 (B) M Dixon 6-8-3 ... G Bardwell 8
8 2000 WELLSY LAD 8 (CD,S) J Chapman 5-8-3 ... S Wood 4
9 50/0 DEEPWOOD NANUSKET 16 M Madgwick 6-7-10 S Dawson 9

5-2 Toshiba Comet, 7-2 Mac's Fighter, 4-1 Wellsy Lad, 8-1 Invocation, 8-1 Bay Mountain, 10-1 others.

2.55 RAPPORTEUR STAKES
(£4,113: 1m 2f) (6)

1 -113 RAPPORTEUR 21 (BF,CD,F,G) C Elsey 8-8-5 W Newnes 2
2 84-1 TEMPERING 10 (D,F) D Chapman 6-8-5 ..... S Wood 5
3 410- WINGFIELD 7J (E,D,S) D Ellsworth 4-8-4 ... J Williams 4
4 5/0- TANFTH 305 (F,G) J Banks 5-8-12 ..... D Biggs (3) 1
5 0226 CARLOWITZ 7 A Moore 4-8-11 ..... B Rouse 6
6 800- RISING TEMPO 158 (C) C Cyzer 4-8-11 ..... G Carter 3

8-11 Rapporteur, 3-1 Tempering, 8-1 Wingfield, 8-1 Carlowitz, 16-1 Rising Tempo, 25-1 Tanfth.

☐ The Japan Cup has been promoted to international group one status. Until now the race, to be run in Tokyo on November 29, has only been recognised as grade one in Japan.

3.25 CONQUEST CUP
(Handicap: £10,770: 1m) (11)

1 3121 SUPER SALLY 14 (CD) M Ryan 5-10-0 ... D Biggs (3) 7
2 1112 AFRICAN CHIMES 7 (B,BF,C,F) W O'Gorman 5-9-11 Emma O'Gorman (5) 3
3 01-1 PYTCHLEY NIGHT 18 (CD,F) D Morris 5-9-8 S Davies 5
4 -112 MARTINI EXECUTIVE 8 (B,BF,CD,F) W Pearce 4-8-11 D Nicholls 10
5 141- SHAKE TOWN 130 (F,G) M Tompkins 4-8-9 C Hodgson (5) 6
6 2124 EUROBLAKE 8 (D,F) T Barron 5-8-5 ... Alex Greaves 4
7 5231 CONJURER 14J (D,F) R Simpson 5-9-0 ..... W Ryan 2
8 -532 USA DOLLAR 14 (B,BF,D,F) B Gubby 5-7-10 J Quinn 11
9 -452 VUCHTERSACHER 7 (C,F) P Tulk 6-7-7 T Wilson (7) 8
10 6161 KISSAVOS 22 (V,C,D,F) C Elsey 6-7-7 ... F Norton (5) 1
11 5-10 SAUVIGNON 18 (C) R Guest 4-7-7 ... C Hawksley (7) 9

4-1 African Chimes, 9-2 Super Sally, 6-1 Pytchley Night, Martini Executive, 8-1 Eurobiake, 9-1 Kissavos, 10-1 others.

3.55 LIBRA HANDICAP (£3,687: 7f) (8)

1 050- DOMICKSKY 109 (CD,F,G,S) M Ryan 4-9-10 .. N Day 3
2 214- LANGUEDOC 94 (C,S) M Naughton 5-9-10 L Charnock 2
3 6601 PREDICTABLE 7 (CD,G) Mrs A Knight 6-8-12 D Biggs (3) 1
4 4041 MURMURING 7 (C) S Dow 6-8-11 ..... T Quinn 7
5 2314 TRY LEGUARD 21 (CD,G) W Carter 3-8-10 G Carter 8
6 2431 APPEALING TIMES 4 (CD) W O'Gorman 3-8-5 (7ex) Emma O'Gorman (5) 5
7 0-04 THE SHANAHAN BAY 10 (V,C,F,S) Mrs N Macauley 7-8-4 Dean McKeown 4
8 00-3 MOSSY ROSE 22 (S) Lord Huntingdon 6-8-4 D Harrison (7) 6

5-2 Predictable, 3-1 Appealing Times, 4-1 The Shanahan Bay, 8-1 Murmuring, 8-1 Languedoc, 10-1 Mossy Rose, 12-1 others.

4.25 REPQUIP-TERRA-VAC HANDICAP
(£2,950: 2m) (12)

1 301- ART FORM 99 (CD,F,G) C Cyzer 5-10-0 T G McLaughlin (7) 7
2 405- POSTAGE STAMP 22J (D,F) J Pearce 5-9-2 J McLaughlin 12
3 400- COLERIDGE 194 (F) D Shaw 4-8-2 ..... G Carter 5
4 /40- HONEY DANCER 140 (CD,F,S) Miss A Whitfield 8-8-1 G Baxter 1
5 20-0 CONJURING 10 (B) G Thorner 4-8-8 ..... R Wernham 4
6 5200 EL DOMINIO 7 (C,G,S) K Cunningham-Brown 4-8-5 W Newnes 10
7 -223 CARLINGFORD 29 (BF,F) M Naughton 6-8-3 L Charnock 2
8 3211 AUDE LA BELLE 14 (CD) Mrs A Knight 4-8-0 D Biggs (3) 3
9 060- SIR DANCELOT 26J R Simpson 4-7-11 ... S Dawson 8
10 15-5 SHAR EMBLEM 9J (BF,CD) S Dow 4-7-7 ... J Quinn 9
11 4-00 GIPSY KING 32 P Kelleway 4-7-7 ..... G Bardwell 6
12 4/05 SAND CASTLE 9J (F,S) P Howling 11-7-7 F Norton (5) 11

9-4 Postage Stamp, 7-2 Shar Emblem, 4-1 Art Form, 8-1 Carlingford, 8-1 Sand Castle, 10-1 El Dominio, 12-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: M Prescott, 13 winners from 42 runners, 31%; W O'Gorman, 20 from 86, 23.6%; R Guest, 4 from 18, 22.2%; C Cyzer, 10 from 50, 20%; D Morris, 4 from 22, 18.2%; T Barron, 6 from 34, 17.6%.

JOCKEYS: T G McLaughlin, 5 winners from 15 rides, 33.3%; Emma O'Gorman, 19 from 76, 25%; G Duffield, 26 from 121, 20.7%; Dean McKeown, 17 from 83, 20.5%; N Day, 12 from 64, 18.8%; Alex Greaves, 8 from 43, 18.6%.

Spinning to relish conditions

IAN Balding has already won the Imperial Cup once with Insular. Now I will be expecting the Kingsclere trainer to lift the same trophy at Sandown today, this time with **Spinning**.

Like Insular, Spinning is a versatile horse with good form on the Flat. Since his attention was turned to hurdling, at Cheltenham on New Year's eve, he has not been beaten.

While he was certainly impressive when winning over today's course and distance early last month, arguably his best performance occurred at Kempton mid-way through January when he easily accounted for the highly-rated Ashfold Copse, a winner since at Newbury.

Since today's race is an early-closing event Spinning carries 4lb less than he would in races such as the County Hurdle at Cheltenham next week as he has been re-rated.

MICHAEL PHILLIPS

He has been given an excellent chance of making his class tell with only 10st 9lb to carry, and he is my nap.

With the weights going up 8lb overnight, Egypt Mill Prince and Rodeo Star now top the handicap.

They finished first and third in the Tote Gold Trophy at Newbury. But it should be much closer this time as Egypt Mill Prince has a 6lb pull for a beating of a little over seven lengths.

Of the remainder, I am most afraid of Oneupmanship and King Credo, even though their best performances have been on softer ground than they encounter this time.

Spinning, on the other hand, will relish the conditions underfoot.

Following that good second behind Docklands Express in the *Racing Post* Chase at Kempton a fortnight ago, **Pegwell Bay** is taken to go one better by winning the Foodbrokers Royal Game Handicap Chase.

Those with good memories will recall this Tim Forster-trained 11-year-old running arguably the best race of his life over today's course and distance in the February of 1989 when he ran Desert Orchid to three-quarters of a length in the Gainsborough Chase, albeit at a difference of 18lb.

While Ketti would go well in the Barclays Bank Handicap Hurdle for amateur riders if she were to reproduce the form that enabled her to finish second in the Imperial Cup 12 months ago, I still prefer the in-form **Top Javalin**, who will benefit from the assistance of Gerald Oxley in the saddle.

Visitors to Chepstow will relish the Swish Hurdle now that Mighty Mogul, Carobee, Currant Express and Valfinet have stood their ground.

Should **Ring Of Fortune** win the Polycell Hurdle at the beginning of the programme, as well he may following that 20-length victory at Plumpton last month, he will draw further attention to **Carobee**'s chance of winning the main race on the Welsh track since he had been beaten 12 lengths by Carobee at Leicester the time before.

In the meantime, Carobee has gone on to win again in a common canter.

A victory for Ring Of Fortune should be the first of two for Martin Pipe and Peter Scudamore since **Riverside Boy** appears to have the Apex Reprographics Novices' Chase at his mercy following that promising first effort over fences at Leicester in the race won by Ryde Again.



Forster: his Pegwell Bay is Sandown fancy

Racing next week

MONDAY: Plumpton, Taunton, Southwell (AW). TUESDAY: Cheltenham, Sedgefield, Lingfield Park (AW). WEDNESDAY: Cheltenham, Newton Abbot. THURSDAY: Cheltenham, Hexham. FRIDAY: Lingfield Park, Wolverhampton, Fakenham. SATURDAY: Lingfield Park, Uttoxeter, Chepstow, Newcastle, Southwell (AW).

(Flat meetings in bold)

SANDOWN PARK

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
2.00 Amari King.	2.00 Banbridge.	3.05 Martha's Son.
2.30 Copper Mine.	2.30 Copper Mine.	
3.05 Top Javalin.	3.05 Top Javalin.	
3.35 Pegwell Bay.	3.35 Pegwell Bay.	
4.10 SPINNING (nap).	4.10 Spinning.	
4.40 Buck Willow.	4.40 Buck Willow.	
5.10 James The First.	5.10 Stormy Sunset.	

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE); GOOD, GOOD TO FIRM BACK STRAIGHT (HURDLES) SIS

2.00 DICK McCREERY CUP (Handicap chase: amateurs: £3,225: 2m 18yd)

101 21-1333 AMARI KING 50 (CD,BF,G,S) (M Ward-Thomas) T Forster 8-12-0 Capt C Ward-Thomas (7) ● 99
102 312421 BANBRIDGE 50 (D,F,G,S) (M Vestey) D Nicholson 9-12-0 Capt A Smith-Maxwell (7) 98
103 3-F5UP0 MAYBE BABY 12 (D,G) (S Lindsey) D Barons 7-10-7 Mr G Oxley (5) 90

Long handicap: Maybe Baby 9-9.

BETTING: 4-5 Banbridge, 11-8 Amari King, 7-1 Maybe Baby.

1991: AMARI KING 7-10-6 Capt C Ward Thomas (5-4) T Forster 5 ran

2.30 HMS SANDOWN NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,495: 2m) (6 runners)

201 33-2112 COPPER MINE 22 (D,BF,F,G) (J Dougall) O Sherwood 6-11-8 J Osborne ● 99
202 GREY HUSSAR (A Reed) N Henderson 6-11-0 — —
203 LUCKY VILLAIN (N Henderson) N Henderson 7-11-0 — —
204 000 MR TITTLE TATTLE 70 (B) (Mrs J Newton) K Bailey 6-11-0 A Tory 58
205 0/00-P PEATY GLEN 128 (Michael Jackson Bloodstock Ltd) G Balding 7-11-0 A Maguire —
206 0/6 KILLERTON 48 (Lady Carden) A J Wilson 8-10-9 L Harvey 59

BETTING: 1-2 Copper Mine, 5-1 Killerton, 7-1 Grey Hussar, 10-1 Lucky Villain, 14-1 Peaty Glen, Mr Tittle Tattle.

1991: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

3.05 BARCLAYS BANK HANDICAP HURDLE (Amateurs: £4,297: 2m) (10 runners) C4

301 620123 TAKE ISSUE 23 (D,BF,G,S) (R Rower) J Sutcliffe 7-12-0 J Beardsall (7) 92
302 046344 KETTI 7 (B,D,F,G,S) (Berkshire Components Ltd) D Williams 7-11-12 G Lewis (7) 95
303 345606 VICEROY JESTER 12 (CD,F,S) (F Broom) G Balding 7-11-9 Capt F Wheeler (7) 95
304 30311 TOP JAVALIN 25 (D,S) (Mrs J Relp) D Barons 5-10-11 G Oxley (5) ● 99
305 214010 FIVE LAMPS 30 (CD,G,S) (Mrs C Holder) R Dickin 12-10-8 Maj O Ellwood (7) 95
306 1510-62 BEN ZABEEDY 18 (F) (C Batt) R Simpson 7-10-7 Capt A Smith-Maxwell (7) 91
307 1F2 MARTHA'S SON 22 (D,BF,G) (M Ward-Thomas) T Forster 5-10-7 Capt C Ward Thomas (7) 97
308 061431 KING OF SHADOWS 25 (J Carden) R Hollinshead 5-10-7 J Carden (7) 96
309 2F4641 THE HIDDEN CITY 22 (D,G) (Central Racing Ltd) C Tinkler 6-10-7 D Verco (7) 96
310 0P0464 SPARK OF PEACE 14 (G,S) (B Cahill) P Blockley 10-10-7 Capt D Cockram (7) 95

Long handicap: King Of Shadows 10-4, The Hidden City 9-13, Spark Of Peace 9-10.

BETTING: 5-2 Top Javalin, 9-2 Martha's Son, 5-1 Ben Zabeedy, 6-1 Take Issue, 8-1 Viceroy Jester, 12-1 King Of Shadows, The Hidden City, 14-1 Ketti, 16-1 others.

1991: FIVE LAMPS 11-10-0 Capt O Ellwood (5-1) R Dickin 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

TAKE ISSUE 3½l 3rd of 8 to Abu Muslab in Lingfield (AW, 2m) amateur riders' handicap hurdle. KETTI 23l 4th of 8 to Crystal Spirit in grade II Berkshire Hurdle at Newbury (2m 4f 120yd, good). TOP JAVALIN beat One To Note 7l in 15-runner Newton Abbot (2m 150yd, heavy) novice hurdle. FIVE LAMPS beat Emerald Gem neck in 6-runner Nottingham (2m, good) handicap hurdle on penultimate start.

BEN ZABEEDY 3l 2nd of 4 to Jan-Re in Lingfield (AW, 2m 4f) handicap hurdle. MARTHA'S SON 10l 2nd of 5 to Stevendon in Fakenham (2m 110yd, good) novice hurdle. KING OF SHADOWS beat Daunou neck in 6-runner Southwell (AW, 2m 4f) handicap hurdle. THE HIDDEN CITY beat Top It All 4l in 9-runner Fakenham (2m 110yd, good) selling handicap hurdle.
Selection: BEN ZABEEDY

3.35 FOOD BROKERS ROYAL GAME HANDICAP CHASE (£4,183: 3m 118yd) (5 runners) C4

401 3-03232 PEGWELL BAY 14 (F,G) (Major A Barlow) T Forster 11-12-0 J Osborne ● 99
402 3214/05 BROWN WINDSOR 14 (C,F,G,S) (W Shand Kydd) N Henderson 10-11-10 R Dunwoody —
403 4P2P21 THE LEGGETT 7 (C,D,F,G,S) (A Ford) M Pipe 9-10-8 R Bellamy 96
404 21/211-3 GOLDEN FOX 14 (B,D,F,G) (Mrs K Lyons) G Enright 10-10-0 A Maguire 93
405 P33UP4 PADDY BUCK 9 (F,S) (Mrs J Morris) J Honeyball 12-10-0 I Lawrence 75

Long handicap: Golden Fox 9-12, Paddy Buck 7-11.

BETTING: 6-4 Pegwell Bay, 2-1 The Leggett, 7-2 Golden Fox, 6-1 Brown Windsor, 50-1 Paddy Buck.

1991: ROWLANDSONS JEWELS 10-11-0 G Bradley 100-30 (D G Murray-Smith) 8ran

FORM FOCUS

PEGWELL BAY 1l 2nd of 11 to Docklands Express in grade II Racing Post Handicap Chase at Kempton (3m, good to firm) with BROWN WINDSOR (2lb better off) 21½l 5th. THE LEGGETT beat Decent Man neck in 6-runner Market Rasen (3m, good) handicap chase.

GOLDEN FOX 15l 3rd of 5 to Damers Cavalry in Doncaster (3m 2f, good to firm) handicap chase. Beat Royal Battery hard-fought head in 7-runner Devon (3m 1f, good) handicap chase on final start last season.
Selection: THE LEGGETT

4.10 SUNDERLANDS IMPERIAL CUP (Handicap hurdle: £25,920: 2m) (10 runners) C4

501 P-25213 EGYPT MILL PRINCE 28 (D,F,S) (S Webb) Mrs J Pitman 6-11-10 M Pitman 96
502 311111 RODEO STAR 28 (D,F,G,S) (J Bradbury) N Tinkler 6-11-10 (6ex) J Osborne 98
503 311-451 ONEUPMANSHIP 35 (D,G,S) (D Watson) D Elsworth 7-11-5 A Procter (7) ● 99
504 61P-510 ALREEF 21 (D,S) (H Sibley) T Thomson Jones 6-11-2 G Rowe (7) 91
505 04410F VIKING FLAGSHIP 11 (CD,BF,F,S) (Roach Foods Ltd) D Nicholson 5-11-2 R Dunwoody 92
506 6-111 SPINNING 36 (CD,F,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 5-10-9 J Frost 93
507 111122 MARLIN DANCER 22 (D,G,S) (J Quinn) Miss B Sanders 7-10-9 Dale McKeown 90
508 26F361 SARTORIUS 23 (CD,G) (M Popham) T Thomson Jones 6-10-8 H Davies 95
509 2/115-01 KING CREDO 95 (CD,G,S) (G Gornall) S Woodman 7-10-4 A Maguire 97
510 214-132 BRIERY FILLE 26 (D,BF) (C Cole) A Hide 7-10-0 S Woods 77

Long handicap: Briery Fille 8-7.

BETTING: 11-4 Spinning, 7-2 Rodeo Star, 9-2 Oneupmanship, 7-1 Egypt Mill Prince, 8-1 Viking Flagship, 10-1 King Credo, 12-1 Sartorius, 14-1 others.

1991: PRECIOUS BOY 5-10-6 L Wyer 16-1 (M O'Neill) 13ran

FORM FOCUS

EGYPT MILL PRINCE beat Jungle Knife 3l in 7-runner Kempton (2m, good to firm) handicap hurdle on penultimate start with SARTORIUS (12lb better off) 30l 3rd.
RODEO STAR beat Native Mission 5l in 15-runner grade II Tote Gold Trophy Handicap Hurdle at Newbury (2m 100yd, good) with EGYPT MILL PRINCE (8lb better off) 2½l 3rd and VIKING FLAGSHIP (3lb better off) 22½l 10th. Previously beat Cheerful Times ½l in 6-runner Ascot (2m, good to firm) handicap hurdle with VIKING FLAGSHIP (9lb better off) 15¾l 4th.
ONEUPMANSHIP beat Dara Doone 2½l in 16-runner Chepstow (2m, soft) handicap hurdle with SARTORIUS (9lb better off) 37l 6th. ALREEF beat Take Issue 1½l in 6-runner Lingfield (2m, AW) handicap hurdle on penultimate start. SPINNING completed treble when beating Rafiki 5l in 10-runner novice hurdle over course and distance (good).
MARLIN DANCER 30l 2nd of 9 to Crystal Heights in conditional jockeys' handicap hurdle here (2m 75yd, good). SARTORIUS beat Wake Up 5l in 6-runner handicap hurdle over course and distance (good).
KING CREDO beat Easy Buck ¾l in 11-runner Fontwell (2m 2f, good) handicap hurdle.
Selection: RODEO STAR

4.40 BURNT OAK & SPECIAL CARGO NOVICES CHASE (£3,132: 2m 18yd) (3 runners) C4

601 28-1661 BUCK WILLOW 22 (C,F,G,S) (H Joel) J Gifford 8-11-6 D Murphy ● 99
602 539642 HICKELTON LAD 9 (F,G) (Miss B Palmer) D Williams 8-11-6 R Dunwoody 71
603 5/005-04 BUMPTIOUS BOY 16 (F) (T Pilkington) A J Wilson 8-11-2 A Maguire 66

BETTING: 1-4 Buck Willow, 5-1 Bumptious Boy, 6-1 Hickelton Lad.

1991: NAATELL 8-11-1 D Skyrme (11-2) N Mitchell 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

BUCK WILLOW beat the useful Danny Harrold a neck in good-class 4-runner novice chase here (2m 4f 68yd, good).
HICKELTON LAD 6l 2nd of 11 to Late Mission in Ludlow (2m 4f, good) novice chase. BUMPTIOUS BOY 13¾l 4th of 14 to Storm Alert in Wincanton (2m, good) novice chase.
Selection: BUCK WILLOW

5.10 FLYERS NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£825: 2m) (22 runners)

1 BALLY PARSON (G Hutsby) J Chugg 6-11-8 Mr P Roche (7) —
2 4- BREECHES BUOY 340 (M Shone) J Edwards 6-11-8 Mr R Davis (7) —
3 DEPENDABLE (Mrs P Sherwood) N Henderson 5-11-8 — —
4 DRUMCEVA (J Kinnear) G Balding 6-11-8 A Maguire —
5 FLASHTHECASH (Dr G Madan Mohan) G Balding 6-11-8 R Farmer (7) —
6 HOLY MACKEREL (Mrs C Wells) N Henderson 5-11-8 P Thompson (7) —
7 0 MANOR MAN 21 (Mrs A Baker) M Pipe 5-11-8 — —
8 MARTIN'S LAMP (F Welch) J Gifford 5-11-8 — —
9 ODYSSEUS (R Waley-Cohen) N Henderson 6-11-8 J Kavanagh —
10 SLIPPERTON (D Andrews) O Sherwood 5-11-8 Mr J Durkan —
11 THE MINE CAPTAIN (G Evans) F O'Mahony 5-11-8 Mr R Farrant (7) —
12 5 THE PORTSOY LOON 109 (Mrs E Crossman) G Thorner 5-11-8 C O'Connor (7) —
13 21 JAMES THE FIRST 12 (D Nichols) P Nicholls 4-11-7 P Hughes (7) —
14 1 WHO'S NEXT 2 (D Steele) J Jenkins 4-11-7 A Wingate (7) —
15 0 BALMY BREEZE 21 (W Wightman) W Wightman 5-11-3 A Procter (7) —
16 0- BARNETT HILL 332 (Mrs J Moseley) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-3 V Slattery (5) —
17 KOULOURA (E Darke) Mrs J Retter 5-11-3 M A Fitzgerald (5) —
18 0 REALM'S PRINCESS 29 (I Rivenses) M Pipe 5-11-3 — —
19 STORMY SUNSET (W Dennis) D Barons 5-11-3 R Greene (5) —
20 0 HERMES HARVEST 50 (Miss B Palmer) D Williams 4-11-0 N Thomas (7) —
21 5 THE GLOW 21 (Mrs T Brown) D Elsworth 4-11-0 — —
22 0 NO DEBT 14 (Mrs P Jubert) J Gifford 4-10-9 — —

BETTING: 7-2 James The First, 5-1 Stormy Sunset, 6-1 Dependable, 8-1 Breeches Buoy, Drumceva, 10-1 Who's Next, 12-1 Odysseus, Manor Man, Realms Princess, 16-1 others.

1991: RAFIKI 6-11-1 M Fitzgerald (16-1) Mrs J Retter 21 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
T Thomson Jones	3	10	30.0	Mr G Oxley	5	19	26.3
M Pipe	16	57	28.1	I Lawrence	3	13	23.1
K Bailey	7	32	21.9	M Pitman	5	22	22.7
Mrs J Pitman	10	55	18.2	J Osborne	13	63	20.6
D Nicholson	13	73	17.8	R Dunwoody	21	115	18.3
N Henderson	10	61	16.4	D Murphy	8	47	17.0

(Not including yesterday's results)

CHEPSTOW

MANDARIN	THUNDERER	RICHARD EVANS
1.00 Ring Of Fortune.	1.00 Ring Of Fortune.	2.00 CAROBEE (nap).
1.30 Among Friends.	1.30 Among Friends.	2.30 Plat Reay.
2.00 Carobee.	2.00 Mighty Mogul.	
2.30 Plat Reay.	2.30 Plat Reay.	
3.00 Riverside Boy.	3.00 Riverside Boy.	
3.30 Castigliero.	3.30 CASTIGLIERO (nap).	

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

1.00 POLYCELL HURDLE (4-Y-O: £4,269: 2m) (8 runners) BBC1

1 341312 PIMS GUNNER 7 (D,G) (T Brooks) D Burchell 11-4 D J Burchell ● 99
2 51 CADENCY 32 (D,G) (B Schmidt-Bodner) M Tompkins 11-0 R Campbell 82
3 0201 FANLIGHT 10 (D,S) (C Holland) R Akehurst 11-0 R Dunwoody 93
4 005 LATIN QUARTET 7 (V) (Mrs D O'Donoghue) L Codd 11-0 V Smith 64
5 0621 MISTER MAJOR 16 (D,G) (B Kaey) G Balding 11-0 J Frost 87
6 NAMASTE 121F (J Galvanoni) R Rowe 11-0 G Bradley —
7 31302 PETOSKU 33 (D,S) (F Mills) N Twiston-Davies 11-0 C Llewellyn 97
8 12221 RING OF FORTUNE 26 (D,G) (F Barr) M Pipe 11-0 P Scudamore 97

BETTING: 11-4 Ring Of Fortune, 7-2 Cadency, 4-1 Pims Gunner, 5-1 Petosku, 6-1 Fanlight, 8-1 Mister Major, 20-1 Namaste, 33-1 Latin Quartet.

1991: BIFOCAL 11-3 D Gallagher (8-1) P Bevan 10 ran

FORM FOCUS

PIMS GUNNER 10l 2nd of 4 to Gay Ruffian in Hereford (2m, good) hurdle. CADENCY beat Kilcash 10l in 20-runner Warwick (2m, good) novice hurdle with FANLIGHT 19l 11th and LATIN QUARTET tailed off 18th.
FANLIGHT beat Kayfaat 3l in 13-runner Worcester (2m, good to soft) novice hurdle.
MISTER MAJOR beat The Black Monk 6l in 12-runner Wincanton (2m, good) novice hurdle. PETOSKU 4l 2nd of 12 to Fight To Win in Wolverhampton (2m 4f, good) novice hurdle.
RING OF FORTUNE beat Days Of Thunder 20l in 10-runner Plumpton (2m, good) novice hurdle. Previously 12l 2nd of 13 to Carobee in Leicester (2m, soft) novice hurdle with CADENCY 25l 5th.
Selection: RING OF FORTUNE (nap)

1.30 CUPRINOL NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,947: 2m 4f) (13 runners) BBC1

1 6-2U325 BOOK OF GOLD 14 (F,S) (H Joel) J Gifford 7-11-10 E Murphy 87
2 132421 AMONG FRIENDS 14 (G) (Rumble Racing Club) G Balding 7-11-3 W McFarland ● 99
3 25-5132 COOLE DODGER 16 (S) (Mrs B Searle) G Ham 7-10-12 S McNeill 90
4 14060-F IT'S AFTER TIME 25 (S) (Mrs R Brackenbury) Mrs R Brackenbury 7-10-10 T Grantham —
5 6/66 BRICKET WOOD 29 (Miss D Holland-Hibbert) N Gaselee 7-10-10 C Llewellyn 80
6 312533 THE SHY CONTROLLER 16 (B,G) (M Bateman) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-9 M Bowlby 90
7 4260P3 CHARLIE DICKINS 29 (S) (D Mullen) S Mellor 8-10-8 M Perrett 88
8 /PU-P02 BRANDON PIER 7 (F) (G Greenwood) T Casey 9-10-5 R Dunwoody 98
9 0/P63P-3 L FOREVER 7 (R Fairbarns) Mrs S Richardson 9-10-1 C Maude 84
10 32025F QUINTANA 17 (B,F,G,S) (Scott Wilson Racing) P Bevan 10-10-0 T Wall 84
11 3-U45P4 TIME STAR 12 (Mrs C Antrobus) T Forster 8-10-0 J Railton 82
12 /P00P0 BROMO 49 (M Montague) P Pritchard 7-10-0 D Bridgwater (3) —
13 0-0633P DUCKHAVEN 24 (B,G,S) (Duckhaven Stud) R Baker 9-10-0 N Coleman —

Long handicap: Quintana 9-11, Time Star 9-10, Bromo 9-10, Duckhaven 9-10.

BETTING: 7-2 Among Friends, 9-2 Book Of Gold, 5-1 Coole Dodger, 6-1 The Shy Controller, 8-1 Charlie Dickins, 10-1 Brandon Pier, 12-1 It's After Time, 14-1 Time Star, 16-1 others.

1991: TIPPING TIM 6-10-1 B Powell (5-1) N Twiston-Davies 12 ran

FORM FOCUS

BOOK OF GOLD 2l 2nd of 11 to Ryde Again in Leicester (2m 4f, soft) novice chase on penultimate start. AMONG FRIENDS beat Celtic Trust 7l in 9-runner Stratford (2m 5f, good) novice chase. COOLE DODGER neck 2nd of 14 to Storm Alert in Wincanton (2m, good) novice chase on chasing bow with THE SHY CONTROLLER (10lb better off) 10l 3rd.

CHARLIE DICKENS 7½l 3rd of 16 to Shadow Run in Bangor (2m 4f, good to soft) novice handicap chase. BRANDON PIER 8l 2nd of 6 to Change The Act in Newbury (2m 4f, good) novice chase with L FOREVER distance 3rd. TIME STAR 18½l 4th of 14 to Sire Nantais in Leicester (2m 4f, good) claiming chase.
Selection: AMONG FRIENDS

□ Young Snugfit, one of ten left in the Queen Mother Champion Chase yesterday, will only run in the Cheltenham two-mile championship on Wednesday if one of the main contenders drops out.

2.00 SWISH HURDLE (5-Y-O: £14,117: 2m) (8 runners) BBC1

1 0-02221 GALAXY HIGH 7 (D,G) (R Hughes) P Leach 11-9 L Wyer 87
2 211 MIGHTY MOGUL 21 (C,D,S) (Mrs S Robins) Mrs J Pitman 11-9 M Pitman 88
3 1311 CAROBEE 24 (D,G,S) (Mrs R Sloan) D Nicholson 11-5 R Dunwoody ● 99
4 22-1 CURRENT EXPRESS 22 (D,G) (Lord Matthews) N Henderson 11-5 J White 92
5 4231 NEEDWOOD MUPPET 28 (D,G) (D Blagden) B Morgan 11-5 R Stronge 76
6 011 SAFFAAH 7 (D,G) (Mrs H Levy) W Muir 11-5 M Richards 97
7 13-1131 VALFINET 8 (D,S) (F Farrant) M Pipe 11-5 P Scudamore 84
8 41F623 WOLVER GOLD 82 (D,F) (A Roberts) J Roberts 11-0 B Clifford 76

BETTING: 9-4 Carobee, 11-4 Mighty Mogul, 7-2 Current Express, 6-1 Valfinet, 8-1 Saffaah, 10-1 Galaxy High.

1991: MUDAHIM 11-5 D Tegg (40-1) C Broad 11 ran

FORM FOCUS

GALAXY HIGH beat Love Anew 3l in 5-runner Newbury (2m 100yd, good) handicap hurdle. MIGHTY MOGUL beat Sweet Duke 4l (pair well clear) in 6-runner grade II Persian War Novice Hurdle here (2m 4f, soft). CAROBEE beat First Lesson 8l in 12-runner Worcester (2m, soft) novice hurdle. Previously beat Ring Of Fortune 12l in Leicester (2m, soft) novice hurdle.
CURRENT EXPRESS beat Copper Mine 2l (pair clear) in 10-runner Sandown (2m, good) novice hurdle. NEEDWOOD MUPPET left in lead last when beating Forest Fawn 8l in 18-runner Uttoxeter (2m, good) novice handicap hurdle. SAFFAAH beat Schweppes Tonic ½l in 12-runner Hereford (2m, good) novice handicap hurdle.
VALFINET beat Thumbs Up 1l in 12-runner Haydock (2m, good to soft) novice hurdle. WOLVER GOLD 3½l 3rd of 15 to Woodurather in Newton Abbot (2m 150yd, good) novice hurdle.
Selection: CAROBEE

2.30 AMDEGA HANDICAP CHASE (£2,820: 2m 4f) (6 runners)

1 31113/0 ZUKO 28 (F,G,S) (S Powell) S Mellor 11-12-0 M Perrett —
2 4RP-453 SAFFRON LORD 23 (D,F,G,S) (J Holmes) R Rowe 10-11-9 T Grantham 84
3 P-331P6 HALF BROTHER 28 (CD,G,S) (P Bonner) Mrs J Pitman 10-11-6 B de Haan 91
4 11-23F1 PLAT REAY 14 (D,BF,G,S) (Anne Duchess of Westminster) T Forster 8-10-9 C Llewellyn ● 99
5 11F3-23 REPEAT THE DOSE 14 (D,F,S) (A Wates) T Etherington 7-10-8 M Richards 98
6 0/1112-U MARKET FORCES 8 (G,S) (Mrs R Baker) N Gaselee 9-10-5 P Scudamore 83

BETTING: 5-4 Plat Reay, 7-2 Repeat The Dose, 9-2 Half Brother, 6-1 Market Forces, 8-1 Saffron Lord.

1991: THE LEGGETT 8-11-2 P Scudamore (3-1) M Pipe 8 ran

3.00 APEX REPROGRAPHICS NOVICES CHASE (£2,466: 3m) (8 runners)

1 1642-60 BUDDINGTON 18 (S) (S Sainsbury) T Forster 7-11-3 J Railton 87
2 403/F2P- HEART OF KINGS 360 (R Fairbarns) Mrs S Richardson 8-11-3 S Cowley 88
3 FUPP/0 MASTER MUCK 12 (B) (N Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 9-11-3 C Llewellyn —
4 /PP05 OUR ENTERTAINER 19 (D Roxburgh) D Roxburgh 10-11-3 N Hawke —
5 0P-40PF OWEN'S PRIDE 72 (S) (N Mitchell) N Mitchell 10-11-3 D Bridgwater (3) —
6 11112-2 RIVERSIDE BOY 12 (G,S) (Miss H Bisgrove) M Pipe 9-11-3 P Scudamore ● 99
7 0F SAM PEPPER 28 (Mrs S Farr) Mrs S Farr 8-11-3 C Evans —
8 55PP-50 LUCKY OLE SON 91 (D Brace) J Thomas 5-10-8 B Clifford (3) —

BETTING: 1-3 Riverside Boy, 6-1 Buddington, 10-1 Heart Of Kings, 14-1 Master Muck, 20-1 others.

1991: WHAT A TO DO 7-11-3 J Railton (12-1) T Forster 16 ran

3.30 PENTAGON HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,285: 2m 4f) (12 runners)

1 4-61280 TARKOVSKY 17 (C,S) (J Watkins) R Lee 7-11-10 A Flannigan (7) 81
2 10/6P BURNING 8 (D,F) (G Rees) M Pipe 8-11-5 M Foster (3) —
3 12322-8 TIM SOLDIER 11 (D,S) (N Jinks) M Barraclough 5-11-4 — 80
4 351-002 MARINERS MIRROR 10 (G,S) (E Prail) M Scudamore 5-11-1 S McNeill 95
5 0534-26 WINTER HAVEN 8 (B,G) (J Davis) R Baker 8-11-1 N Coleman 88
6 0-02250 MEDITATOR 29 (G,S) (Mrs J Perrin) Mrs J Perrin 8-10-9 S Curran (7) 91
7 026501 CASTIGLIERO 24 (V,S) (Mrs B Mead) C Brooks 4-10-2 G Bradley ● 99
8 3-65233 ON THE SAUCE 60 (Goldsmith, Langham & Thompson) M Haynes 5-10-0 C Llewellyn 86
9 00-5R04 DIRECTLY 17 (G,S) (Miss B Swira) G Balding 9-10-0 W McFarland 91
10 42P-000 MUSIC WONDER 16 (C,S) (N Mitchell) N Mitchell 11-10-0 D Skyrme 86
11 30/213-8 BUDDY HOLLY 25 (F) (B Lake) J Old 7-10-0 T Grantham 71
12 4PP-0P HONEYWALL LAD 106 (B Ivens) G Thorner 7-10-0 D Bridgwater (3) —

Long handicap: On The Sauce 9-16, Directly 9-12, Music Wonder 9-10, Buddy Holly 9-5, Honeywall Lad 7-1.

BETTING: 4-1 Castigliero, 9-2 Mariners Mirror, 5-1 Winter Haven, 6-1 Tarkovsky, 8-1 On The Sauce.

1991: WELSHMAN 5-10-6 D Gallagher (4-1) M Blanshard 8 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Winners	Runners	Per cent	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	Per cent
M Pipe	49	163	30.1	P Scudamore	45	120	37.5
N Henderson	7	34	20.6	M Pitman	16	66	24.2
Mrs J Pitman	20	98	20.4	N Hawke	7	34	20.6
C Brooks	6	30	20.0	J White	6	31	19.4
J Gifford	14	78	17.9	E Murphy	4	25	16.0
R Akehurst	6	35	17.1	R Dunwoody	11	78	14.1

AYR

MANDARIN
2.15 Night Of Madness. 2.45 Pura Money. 3.15 Beachy Head. 3.45 Viking Rocket. 4.15 Northants. 4.45 Grey Minstrel. 5.15 High Alltitude.

THUNDERER
2.15 Jock's Burn. 2.45 Marejo. 3.15 Beachy Head. 3.45 Viking Rocket. 4.15 Sweet City. 4.45 Grey Minstrel. 5.15 High Alltitude.

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.15 BEACHY HEAD.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) SIS

2.15 JAMES BARCLAY MEMORIAL TROPHY AMATEUR RIDERS MAIDEN HURDLE (£1,731: 2m 6f) (13 runners)

1 P85- AH JIM LAD 306 A Bailey 6-12-0 A McPherson (7)
2 U-UP CRACK-A-JIM 86 Miss J Barclay 10-12-0 A Robson (7)
3 -000 CRAIGIE PERIL 28 D Robertson 6-12-0 D Robertson (7)
4 14/ GRACE CARD 813F Mrs G Reveley 6-12-0 M Buckley (7)
5 5540 JOCK'S BURN 32 (BF) G Richards 6-12-0 J Murphy (7)
6 142 NIGHT OF MADNESS 7 (F) J Hanson 5-12-0 S Swiers
7 00U0 QUIXALL CROSSETT 12 E Caine 7-12-0 R Hale (7)
8 P342 RED CARDINAL 11 W A Stephenson 6-12-0 A Thornton (7)
9 05 CHEAP 'N' NICE 89 C Parker 5-11-9 D Parker (7)
10 DORA D'OR R Lamb 6-11-9 G White (7)
11 00/ RUN PET RUN 717 P Monteith 7-11-9 S Lyons (7)
12 -P00 TAUVALERA 54 D Swindlehurst 5-11-9 D Swindlehurst (7)
13 0062 TRICYCLING 33 (B) Miss J Barclay 4-11-4 D Mactaggart (7)

5-2 Red Cardinal, 3-1 Grace Card, 9-2 Tricycling, 5-1 Jock's Burn, 10-1 Cheap 'N' Nice, 12-1 others.

2.45 ARTHUR CHALLENGE CUP (Handicap chase: £2,582: 2m) (7)

1 2352 MAREJO 16 (D,F,G,S) F Walton 11-12-0 B Storey
2 5112 INTERIM LIB 32 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs S Bradburne 9-11-11 Mr J Bradburne
3 0230 PURA MONEY 18 (CD,F,G,S) G Richards 10-11-7 N Doughty
4 3631 CAVALIER CROSSETT 10 (D,F,G,S) E Caine 11-11-3 Mr R Hale (7)
5 511- NIGHT GUEST 297 (D,F,G) P Monteith 10-10-13 Mr S Lyons (7)
6 33P4 MAGWOOD 1 (C,S) C Parker 12-10-5 Mr D Parker (7)
7 5550 MERCURIUS 32 (CD,S) D Robertson 10-10-0 A Merrigan

5-2 Interim Lib, 3-1 Marejo, 4-1 Cavalier Crossett, 6-1 Pura Money, 8-1 Night Guest, 10-1 Magwood, 16-1 Mercurius.

1991: MAGWOOD 11-10-0 B Storey (9-1) C Parker 6 ran

3.15 HARCROS SCOTTISH JUVENILE CHAMPIONSHIP (Novices hurdle: qualifier: £1,955: 2m) (9)

1 1 BEACHY HEAD 14 (D,G) C Thornton 11-4 D Wilkinson
2 2212 GALLATEEN 93 (D,BF,F) G Richards 11-4 N Doughty
3 1 TAPATCH 16 (D,F) G Moore 11-4 M Dwyer
4 2121 DIZZY 15 (D,S) P Monteith 11-3 B Storey
5 00 CHEEKY POT 21 (V) Denys Smith 10-12 P Waggott (7)
6 34 FAMILY LINE 22 Miss L Perratt 10-12 L O'Hara
7 020 NATIVE CROWN 42 Miss L Perratt 10-12 C Grant
8 03B ARDLUSSA BAY 15 (BF) J Jefferson 10-7 P Harley
9 003 VALLEY OF TIME 14 P Monteith 10-7 A Dobbin (7)

9-4 Beachy Head, 3-1 Gallateen, 7-2 Tapatch, 4-1 Dizzy, 14-1 Family Line, 16-1 others.

3.45 WESTERN MEETING CLUB HANDICAP CHASE (£2,582: 3m 110yd) (6)

1 1536 PLENTY CRACK 21 (CD,G,S) B Mactaggart 9-12-0 T Reed
2 1323 WREKIN HILL 10 (D,BF,G,S) W A Stephenson 10-11-7 C Grant
3 F445 UNEX-PLAINED 12 (C,G,S) G Moore 9-11-7 J Callaghan
4 -F42 VIKING ROCKET 28 (CD,G,S) C Parker 8-11-7 B Storey
5 2P-P MANHATTAN CHASE 10 (D,S) G Richards 9-11-1 N Doughty
6 -540 REIVER'S LAD 21 (D,G) F Walton 11-10-0 R Hodge (5)

2-1 Viking Rocket, 5-2 Wrekin Hill, 7-2 Unex-Plained, 6-1 Plenty Crack, 8-1 Manhattan Chase, 14-1 Reiver's Lad.

4.15 AYRSHIRE YEOMANRY CUP (Handicap hurdle: £1,913: 2m 4f) (11)

1 -21F NORTHANTS 21 (D,G,S) W Storey 5-11-12 K Doolan
2 5582 MARLINGFORD 14 (BF,G,S) Mrs J Jordan 5-11-8 M Sharratt (7)
3 4434 SWEET CITY 7 (C,S) G Richards 7-11-8 D J Barry (7)
4 354- DALE PARK 22F (C,G,S) N Tinkler 8-10-11 M Hill
5 2355 PERSUASIVE 65 (C,G,S) Miss L Perratt 5-10-11 D Poole (7)
6 0052 ROYAL ILLUSION 8 (G,S) G Moore 8-10-10 M Dwyer
7 1-40 EQUATOR 21 (S) J Haldane 9-10-7 B Storey
8 0150 VALE OF SECRECY 54 (C,F,S) R Fisher 11-10-4 J Callaghan
9 24FP EASY OVER 14 (C,D,F,G,S) R Woodhouse 6-10-3 S Turner
10 0/1- SCHIEHALLION 511 (CD,G,S) J Jefferson 7-10-2 P Harley
11 0-06 TREBONKERS 14 (D,F,S) Miss L Perratt 8-10-0 L O'Hara

3-1 Northants, 4-1 Sweet City, 5-1 Persuasive, 6-1 Schiehallion, 7-1 Marlingford, 8-1 Royal Illusion, 10-1 others.

4.45 AYRSHIRE NOVICES CHASE (£2,250: 2m 4f) (8)

1 2F13 GREY MINSTREL 7 (G) Denys Smith 8-11-10 C Grant
2 6-0F ABITBIZARRE 14 C Parker 6-11-4 Mr A Parker (7)
3 4/4- BAVARD BAY 512 G Richards 8-11-4 N Doughty
4 3520 INTARSIA 10 K Oliver 8-11-4 T Reed
5 3UF6 JUST MASKARAIDER 84 J Charlton 7-11-4 B Storey
6 82P SANDY BEAU 109 J Hanson 8-11-4 M Dwyer
7 P GALA WATER 32 T Dun 8-10-13 L O'Hara
8 00- SAGARO BELLE 305 A Crow 8-10-13 —

8-4 Grey Minstrel, 3-1 Sandy Beau, 4-1 Bavard Bay, 6-1 Intarsia, 10-1 Just Maskaraider, 16-1 others.

5.15 GRUNWICK STAKES NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,075: 2m) (7)

1 MR KNITWIT G Richards 5-11-8 M Moloney
2 THE RAMBLING MAN G Richards 5-11-8 Mr J Murphy (7)
3 1 HIGH ALLTITUDE 42 (G) G Moore 4-11-7 N Bentley (7)
4 00 MISS WAG 22 W Young 5-11-3 R Hodge (5)
5 SCALLY BRIG D Robertson 5-11-3 Mr D Robertson
6 0S SUPER SANDY 15 F Walton 5-11-3 Mr A Robson
7 0 BITOFANATTER 15 R Goldie 4-11-0 Mr R Hale (7)

4-7 High Alltitude, 9-4 Mr Knitwit, 10-1 The Rambling Man, 16-1 Scally Brig, 20-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs G Reveley, 13 winners from 46 runners, 28.3%; J Jefferson, 9 from 38, 23.7%; B Mactaggart, 3 from 13, 23.1%; G Moore, 28 from 123, 22.8%; G Richards, 49 from 237, 20.7%; Mrs S Bradburne, 9 from 53, 17%.

JOCKEYS: N Doughty, 26 winners from 123 rides, 21.1%; M Dwyer, 14 from 73, 19.2%; Mr J Bradburne, 7 from 41, 17.1%; B Storey, 26 from 158, 16.5%; A Merrigan, 8 from 55, 14.5%; S Turner, 8 from 56, 14.3%.

DONCASTER

MANDARIN
2.10 Raawi. 2.40 Flakey Dove. 3.15 Tom Clapton. 3.45 Cornet. 4.20 Duncan. 4.50 Viridian. 5.20 Osmosis.

THUNDERER
2.10 Hudson Bay Trader. 2.40 Flakey Dove. 3.15 Tom Clapton. 3.45 Old Applejack. 4.20 Lislary Lad. 4.50 Sir Noddy. 5.20 Stormhead.

Brian Beel: 4.20 Duncan.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES)

2.10 TICKHILL NOVICES HURDLE (£1,949: 2m 4f) (9 runners)

1 /00 BREAKOUT 21 J Harris 8-11-0 J A Harris
2 600U COOL DUDE 23 O Brennan 6-11-0 M Brennan
3 3452 HUDSON BAY TRADER 14 Mrs S Austin 5-11-0 —
4 P-6P LOYAL SPIRIT 14 Mrs P Pile 8-11-0 M Bosley
5 -064 ROYAL PROGRESS 61 S Sherwood 6-11-0 G Upton
6 0UP MALVERN MADAM 16 J Eyre 5-10-9 A Mulholland
7 3F53 RAAWI 12 J Norton 4-10-5 W Fry (7)
8 0034 UN SOUVERAIN 7 M Chapman 4-10-5 W Worthington
9 NO HARD FEELINGS 169F N Tinkler 4-10-0 R Marley

9-4 Raawi, 11-4 Hudson Bay Trader, 11-2 Royal Progress, 7-1 Un Souverain, 10-1 No Hard Feelings, 14-1 others.

2.40 DONCASTER HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,021: 2m 150yd) (5)

1 3-12 FLAKEY DOVE 7 (D,F,G,S) R Price 6-11-10 D Tegg
2 -10U HOLDENBY 14 (D,F,G,S) Jimmy Fitzgerald 7-11-7 D Byrne
3 5254 HYPNOTIST 14 W Bentley 5-10-2 D Bentley (7)
4 085F ANTIGUAN SMILE 49 (D,F,G) B Wilkinson 7-10-0 M Brennan
5 05-P PLAY TO WIN 3 (S) F Gibson 7-10-0 N Smith (3)

Evens Flakey Dove, 9-4 Hypnotist, 3-1 Holdenby, 10-1 Antiguan Smile, 33-1 Play To Win.

3.15 THORNE CLAIMING HURDLE (£1,640: 2m 150yd) (4)

1 2011 TOM CLAPTON 19 (D,F,G,S) M Pipe 5-11-13 P Niven
2 0 DALESIDE 18 (B) T Fairhurst 4-10-11 R Garritty
3 00 THE FOOLISH ONE 29 E Birchall 5-10-9 Martin Jones
4 0R SALLY FAY 7 T Kersey 4-10-6 Susan Kersey

2-13 Tom Clapton, 4-1 Daleside, 20-1 The Foolish One, 33-1 Sally Fay.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Denys Smith, 4 winners from 14 runners, 28.6%; Jimmy Fitzgerald, 7 from 41, 17.1%; N Tinkler, 4 from 28, 14.3%; J Mackie, 4 from 28, 14.3%; O Brennan, 4 from 34, 11.8%. Only qualifiers.

JOCKEYS: P Niven, 14 winners from 51 rides, 27.5%; R Marley, 5 from 28, 17.9%; R Garritty, 3 from 21, 14.3%; M Lynch, 3 from 21, 14.3%; D Byrne, 4 from 31, 12.9%; G Lyons, 3 from 25, 12%.

3.45 BAWTRY HANDICAP CHASE (£3,590: 2m 4f) (6)

1 1111 CORNET 22 (V,D,F,G,S) Denys Smith 6-11-11 P Niven
2 4312 OLD APPLEJACK 49 (D,F,G,S) J Johnson 12-11-9 A Orkney
3 0226 WIGTOWN BAY 56 (CD,F,G) J Mackie 9-10-10 C Hawkins
4 51-P EIGHT SPRINGS 24 (CD,F,G) M Pipe 11-10-8 P A Farrell
5 P363 ELITE BOY 52 (D,F) D McCain 10-10-0 S J O'Neill
6 2222 VULRORY'S CLOWN 14 (CD,F,G,S) O Brennan 14-10-0 M Brennan

9-4 Cornet, 3-1 Old Applejack, 9-2 Elite Boy, 6-1 Wigtown Bay, Vulrory's Clown, 7-1 Eight Springs.

4.20 HAMBLETON HILLS HUNTER CHASE (Amateurs: £1,562: 2m 4f) (9)

1 -042 LISLARY LAD 5 (D,F,G) Lee Bowles 12-12-1 C Hancock (7)
2 2-12 DUNCAN 7 (BF,G) Miss C Saunders 7-11-11 M Armytage
3 -225 KATESVILLE 5 (BF,G) Lee Bowles 11-11-7 NON-RUNNER
4 /P NEWLIFE CONNECTION 22 (CD,F,G,S) S Pittendrigh 13-11-7 S Pittendrigh (7)
5 dF40 QUERRIN LODGE 164 Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-7 C Wilson (7)
6 P/P SAMBRIAN 5 David Pritchard 7-11-7 D Pritchard (7)
7 /00- SOPHARME 343 M Sams 6-11-7 —
8 0 COOL RUNNINGS 18 S Clark 8-11-2 L Donnelly (7)
9 US/ MAJUBA ROAD 693 (D,G,S) J Eyre 12-11-2 P Looker (7)

6-4 Lislary Lad, 7-4 Duncan, 8-1 Newlife Connection, 14-1 Cool Runnings, 20-1 others.

4.50 AUCKLAND HILL NOVICES CHASE (£2,297: 3m 122yd) (7)

1 5F21 GREYSBY 7 (V,G,S) O Brennan 10-11-12 M Brennan
2 1345 SEBEL HOUSE 28 (S) D McCain 9-11-8 Mr D McCain (7)
3 UU2F SIR NODDY 12 (BF,F) C Vernon Miller 9-11-8 W Humphreys
4 P051 VIRIDIAN 12 (CD,F,G,S) Mrs A King 7-11-8 M Lynch
5 48F5 COMHAMPTON 11 (F) M Barraclough 11-11-4 G Lyons
6 P-P4 QUIDEST 22 (B) A Fowler 9-11-4 D Byrne
7 PPP3 ROONEY 7 G Oldroyd 8-11-4 P Midgley (7)

7-4 Viridian, 9-4 Greysby, 9-2 Sir Noddy, 7-1 Sebel House, 10-1 Comhampton, 25-1 others.

5.20 FINNINGLEY NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,482: 2m 150yd) (8)

1 BOOGIE WOOGIE BOY P Beaumont 5-11-10 W Fry (7)
2 HONDEGHEM W Elsey 6-11-10 W Dwan (7)
3 OSMOSIS D Murray Smith 6-11-10 J McCabe (7)
4 0 NEEDWOOD NATIVE 21 B Morgan 4-11-2 D Dennis (7)
5 STORMHEAD Miss S Hall 4-11-2 F Murtagh (5)
6 06 BETTY ELSTON 5 J Thorpe 4-10-11 NON-RUNNER
7 COME ON CUDDLES E Birchall 4-10-11 D Meredith (7)
8 MIDORI Mrs A Tomkinson 4-10-11 N Smith (3)

7-4 Osmosis, 9-4 Stormhead, 9-2 Boogie Woogie Boy, 7-1 Hondeghem, 14-1 others.

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS FROM FOUR MEETINGS

Sandown Park

Going: good to firm (chase course); good, good to firm back straight (hurdles)

2.00 (2m 5f 75yd hdle) 1, VICOMPT DE VALMONT (R Dunwoody, 11-4); 2, Not So Soon (A Tory, 4-1); 3, Sailor Blue (L Harvey, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 9-4 fav Coasting, 20 Sweet George (5th), 25 Mountain Master, 33 Royal Piper (4th), Vicar Of Bray (6th), 50 Knightly Argus, Mayfield Park, 66 Dorking Ranger (pu), Marney Barle (pu), Platinum Springs (pu). 13 ran. ¾l, ¾l, 3l, ¾l, 1l. N Henderson at Lambourn. Tote: £3.70; £1.80, £1.70, £1.80. DF: £8.90. CSF: £12.84.

2.35 (2m 4f 68yd ch) 1, LYPHENTO (D Murphy, 6-4); 2, Does It Matter (J Osborne, 11-8 fav); 3, Escribana (R Dunwoody, 33-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 Queen Of Sparta (5th), 66 Amrullah (4th). 5 ran. 15l, 12l, 8l, 15l. J Gifford at Findon. Tote: £2.50; £1.50, £1.30. DF: £2.00. CSF: £3.72

3.05 (3m 118yd ch) 1, GUNNER STREAM (Mr B Marquis, 20-1); 2, Fast Study (Capt J Wingfield Digby, 6-1); 3, Bob Tisdall (Capt A Ogden, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Canford Palm (5th), 5 Cherryhill Beauty (ur), 11-2 Senator Of Rome, 13-2 The Argonaut (4th), 9 Dictatorship (pu), 14 Golden Friend (pu), 25 Castle Warden, Under Offer, 33 Maltredee (ur), Norstown (pu), 50 Pensioner Patch (ref), 66 Its All Very Fine, Bridgetown Lad (6th), Glen George (f), Kruggeran Smuggler (pu), The Mighty Bishop (pu). 19 ran. 2½l, 5l, 5l, hd, 5l. R Holder at Bristol. Tote: £12.60; £3.00, £2.50, £6.00. DF: £45.00. CSF: £128.25.

3.40 (2m 5f 75yd) 1, YELLOW SPRING (H Davies, 7-1); 2, Dark Honey (W McFarland, 4-1); 3, Sea Buck (S Hodgson, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 2-1 fav Nickle Joe (5th), 7-2 Villa Recos (4th), 6-1 Badrakhani (f), 20-1 On His Own (f). 7 ran. 2l, 5l, 3l, 20l. D Grissell at Heathfield. Tote: £9.10; £3.30, £2.00. DF: £11.40. CSF: £32.45.

4.10 (3m 118yd ch) 1, DEER CREST (Capt C Ward Thomas, 7-4 fav); 2, Courageous Charger (Maj O Ellwood, 65-1); 3, Tartevie (Mr C Sample, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 4 Scrumpy Country (6th), 8 Burnswark (ur), 10 Eton Rouge (pu), The Berwick (4th), 16 Poppets Pet (5th), 50 High Blend (ref), Samson Bill, 66 Option Two (pu). 11 ran. 7l, 4l, 1½l, 20l, 12l. Capt W Bulwer-Long, Norwich. Tote: £3.00; £1.60, £5.20, £2.20. DF: £95.00 CSF: £76.80.

4.40 (2m hdle) 1, SILLARS STALKER (J Twomey, 4-9 fav, Mandarin's nap); 2, Tanfirion Bay (M Richards, 12-1); 3, Shooting Lodge (R Dunwoody, 13-2). ALSO RAN: 8 Allon Bay (6th), 12 Di Stefano (5th), 25 Thuhool (4th). 6 ran. ½l, 3½l, 12l, 3l, 25l. Mrs J Ramsden at Thirsk. Tote: £1.50; £1.30, £2.00. DF: £3.60. CSF: £6.34.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £1,927.65 carried over to Sandown today).
Placepot: £186.20.

Carlisle

Going: heavy (soft on hurdles course)

2.10 (2m 4f hdle) 1, Man's Best Friend (G Bradley, 12-1); 2, Mr Optimistic (13-8 fav); 3, Village Reindeer (15-2). 18 ran. 1l, 3l. T Tate. Tote: £6.40; £1.60, £1.60, £2.30. DF: £9.20. CSF: £26.93.

2.40 (2m 4f ch) 1, Merry Master (Gee Armytage, 9-4 fav); 2, Secre D'Or (100-30); 3, Kambalda Rambler (11-1). 9 ran. NR: Macho Man. 4l, hd. R Armytage. Tote: £3.20; £1.50, £1.60, £2.50. DF: £6.60. CSF: £9.64.

3.10 (3m 100yd hdle) 1, Rufus (N Williamson, 4-5 fav); 2, The Shade Matcher (7-4); 3, May-Day-Baby (20-1). 11 ran. 5l, 20l. J Edwards. Tote: £1.80; £1.10, £1.10, £1.30. DF: £1.60. CSF: £2.38.

3.45 (2m ch) 1, Sire Nantais (R Supple, 8-13 fav); 2, Mister Moody (16-1); 3, Lemancha Lad (66-1). 13 ran. 4l, 6l. K Burke. Tote: £1.90; £1.40, £2.20, £12.00. DF: £11.50. CSF: £11.81.

4.15 (2m 1f 110yd hdle) 1, Grey Merlin (D Bentley, 14-1); 2, Timurs Double (P Williams, 7-2); 3, Ballyford (11-10 fav). 10 ran. NR: Boy Painter. ½l, ½l. Mrs S Taylor. Tote: £12.80; £2.20, £1.70, £1.80. DF: £17.40. CSF: £56.36. Tricast: £89.26.

4.45 (3m 2f ch) 1, Brompton Road (P Niven, 5-1); 2, Brandy Hambro (50-1); 3, Black Spur (9-2). Boreen Owen 4-1 fav. 12 ran. 7l, 15l. R Lee. Tote: £6.30; £2.40, £9.50, £1.90. DF: £106.80. CSF: £169.00. Tricast: £1,104.69.

5.15 (2m 1f 110yd flat) 1, Konvekta Control (A Dobbin, 4-1); 2, Colour Cost (5-2); 3, Yabbadabbadoo (2-1 fav). 7 ran. 1½l, 30l. J J O'Neill. Tote: £3.30; £1.80, £2.40. DF: £5.20. CSF: £14.97 Placepot: £14.50.

Market Rasen

Going: good to firm

2.20 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Old Peg (L Wyer, 5-2); 2, Il Bambino (2-1 fav); 3, Stans Street (9-2). 7 ran. Nk, 15l. M H Easterby. Tote: £2.40; £1.60, £1.40. DF: £2.80. CSF: £7.20. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.

2.50 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Beauchamp Fizz (P Scudamore, 2-5 fav); 2, Maiden Of Iron (5-1); 3, Elvett Bridge (6-1). 9 ran. 5l, 2l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £1.20, £1.10. DF: £1.60. CSF: £2.77. Chronological refused to race, stakes refunded — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 5p in pound.

3.20 (3m ch) 1, Lady Token (Mrs A Farrell, 85-40 fav); 2, Master Comet (7-2); 3, Cnoc An Oir (6-1). 11 ran. Sh hd, 2½l. H Gill. Tote: £2.90; £1.30, £1.90, £1.90. DF: £3.50. CSF: £9.33.

3.55 (3m ch) 1, Proverbial Luck (Mr J Greenall, 2-1 jt-fav); 2, Lord Purna (2-1 jt-fav); 3, Barrgemma (4-1). 7 ran. 1½l, dist. Miss C Saunders. Tote: £2.60; £1.70, £1.50. DF: £2.50. CSF: £5.98.

4.25 (2m 6f) 1, Lobric (M Ahern, 12-1); 2, Mr Taylor (13-2); 3, Couture Stockings (12-1). Signor Sassie 11-8 fav. 9 ran. NR: Threeoutofour. 6l, nk. J Jenkins. Tote: £19.60; £3.80, £2.00, £2.80. DF: £50.60. CSF: £77.11. Tricast: £859.53.

4.55 (2m 1f ch) 1, Tresidder (P Midgley, Evens); 2, Enaharp (9-1); 3, Ringmore (11-8). 4 ran. 4l, 1½l. M W Easterby. Tote: £1.80. DF: £2.90. CSF: £7.38.

5.25 (1m 6f flat) 1, Secret Castle (L Mullaney, 7-2); 2, Lascar (6-4 fav); 3, Reach For The Moon (5-1). 9 ran. ¾l, 6l. M H Easterby. Tote: £3.80; £1.60, £1.30, £1.90. DF: £3.10. CSF: £9.69. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.

Placepot: £37.90.

Southwell

Going: standard

2.30 (6f) 1, Swinging Lady (F Norton, 5-1); 2, Celito (5-2 fav); 3, Camfield (16-1). 11 ran. 3½l, 1½l. W Haigh. Tote: £4.80; £1.60, £1.50, £2.80. DF: £5.10. CSF: £16.82.

3.00 (6f) 1, Lord Naskra (Emma O'Gorman, 11-2); 2, Patrician Magician (7-2); 3, Pop To Stans (6-5 fav). 8 ran. Sh hd, ¾l. W O'Gorman. Tote: £8.00; £1.10, £1.30, £1.10. DF: £11.70. CSF: £22.63. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.

3.30 (6f) 1, Super Benz (J Fanning, 15-8 fav); 2, Super Heights (5-1); 3, Meeson Times (5-2). 6 ran. 4l, 3l. T Fairhurst. Tote: £2.40; £1.50, £2.50. DF: £5.10. CSF: £10.08.

4.00 (1m 4f) 1, Horizon (D Biggs, Evens fav); 2, Broom Isle (40-1); 3, Army Of Stars (5-1). 7 ran. 3½l, 3½l. T Thomson Jones. Tote: £1.70; £1.10, £3.90. DF: £14.10. CSF: £26.39.

4.30 (1m) 1, Qualitair Rhythm (B Raymond, 11-8 fav); 2, Kay's Dilemma (12-1); 3, Persuasius (7-2). 10 ran. 15l, 6l. I Campbell. Tote: £2.40; £1.30, £2.40, £1.10. DF: £12.70. CSF: £18.48.

5.00 (7f) 1, Hawaii Storm (N Adams, 20-1); 2, Doulab's Image (6-1); 3, Royal Acclaim (16-1). Quinzii Martin 100-30 fav. 11 ran. 3l, 1l. Miss A Whitfield. Tote: £18.60; £4.10, £2.30, £4.80. DF: £146.70. CSF: £127.22. Tricast: £1808.04. After a stewards' enquiry, result stood.

Placepot: £37.40.

RAPID RACELINE
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ALL RESULTS 168
ALL COMMENTARIES 268
BEFORE THE OFF
0891 168+
RESULTS
COMMENTARY

SANDOWN PK	101	201	301
CHEPSTOW	102	202	302
DONCASTER	103	203	303
AYR	104	204	304
LINGFIELD PK	105	205	305
IRISH	120	220	320
GREYHOUNDS	122	222	322

England fall short in coaches' hall of fame test


McGeechan: cautious

Is Will Carling's 1992 team the best in England rugby history? Peter Bills puts the question to the coaches of their five nations' championship rivals

Ian McGeechan (Scotland)

WITH its record, this is undoubtedly the best England side I have seen. Ironically, some of the things they are not doing as well as last year, but, in the way they play as a team, they are far better than last season.

Without a doubt they miss Ackford and Teague. Their scrummage is not as effective and their lineout play is a little more ragged. But due to those factors their overall play is better. They are getting the ball away quicker from the set-pieces and targeting different areas to attack. Tactically it has made them a better side.

For the consistency they have shown over the past three or four years there would be few England sides which have been better. But it is not just this particular XV, because the influence of Ackford and Teague in what England began to achieve and then sustained has been formidable. Hill also played a large part, although I think Morris has been very important to the way they have developed this year.

They are a very, very good side indeed. But to compare with others down the years is probably impossible because the game has changed so much.

Alan Davies (Wales)

IF BEING great means earning ten out of ten, I would not say England are of that calibre. They are very good but I cannot think how you would qualify as a great side. Perhaps only a team that added inventiveness and innovation to a "very good" label could be termed great, and England have not got those qualities.

I believe that had their 1980 grand slam side stayed together and been supported like this England side, they could have achieved successive grand slams. It is just that English rugby has been searching for solidity of support off the field.

Individually I do not believe that some of the players in this side are world class. But as a team they have got it right. They can soak up pressure, score when they want to and are still going strongly in the last 15 minutes. They are maximising the talent of the players individually through the team.

For me there are key men all through the side. Some are under-rated, like Probyn, who is the best tight-head scrummager in the world. And, like so many others, the team is bringing the best out of them.

Ciaran Fitzgerald (Ireland)

THIS is probably the best England side I have seen individually and collectively. It is playing now to its full potential and performing with deep confidence. That is the main difference from last year.

But a great side? I find that difficult to say. The game has changed so much over the years even since the outstanding Welsh side of the 1970s. I don't like comparing teams because every one is entitled to its own identity. Today, rugby is faster and fitness standards are higher but that doesn't make good teams necessarily great or better than those of a few years ago.

It is true that this England team is better equipped to deal with the modern game than the Welsh side of the Seventies, but who can say the Welsh would not have adapted to modern demands had they been the side to beat in the 1990s. I think they probably would.

Where you can use the word great is to describe the depth England have built in their squad. In Ireland we do not have that back-up available nor do the Scots. No one player is chiefly responsible for what England have achieved and that is their secret.

Pierre Berbizier (France)

ENGLAND are playing better now than during the World Cup because there is less pressure in the five nations'.

This England side is one of the best teams; it is fair to call it great. But I do think the team of Bill Beaumont in 1980 was also excellent. However, this team is perhaps better because they have a complete game. When you play against them you face danger from their backs and forwards.

They have the characteristic of a great team, they score during pressure. The vital players for me are Probyn, Dooley and Winterbottom. In the backs, Andrew is much improved while Carling and Guscott complement each other very well.

Halliday has surprised me, for I think he could play well on either wing. The backs are very complete in this side. But in the past there perhaps have been other teams which deserved to be called great sides.

Webb finds the perfect antidote

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

IAN STEWART


Time for reflection: Webb muses on England's chances of completing a second successive grand slam

JONATHAN Webb — chicken or egg? Certainly no chicken, judged by his displays as England's full back these last nine months, which have brought him to the edge of two national records, already earned him a third and have prompted hardened critics to drastically revise their opinions.

But the question is asked in the broader context of England's journey of discovery, through grand slam in 1991, to a hiding in Australia, to the World Cup final and now to the brink of a second successive grand slam. Has Webb been good for England or England good for Webb?

It is a pleasure to discuss rugby philosophy with Webb, partly because of the obvious enjoyment he derives from the exercise and partly because he brings an astute intellect to bear, not just on the playing of rugby but the playing of games which, for him, has been a release from the concentrated effort of moving steadily upwards in his medical career.

"There have been a number of times when I have worked Friday night, played Saturday and gone on duty that Saturday night. Why do it? Maybe because I have seen too many medics at my stage so frustrated with their careers because they have had to give up so much that they have enjoyed, and that upsets me.

"It's terrible that this caring profession does this to people and just grinds them down until they live, eat and breathe medicine. I have struggled on with rugby to prove it can be done although others, like Richard Dodds, the hockey player, have already shown you can."

Perhaps Webb, aged 28, has discovered a balance to his personal equation at the same time as this England team has found a balance to its rugby. It was not always so: Webb's career has occupied two distinct phases, the first from 1987-9, the second since last summer. In between he had to withdraw from rugby so as to ensure that he passed his primary FRCS examination on the way to his present post at Frenchay Hospital in Bristol as plastic surgery senior house officer.

His CV at this stage lacks the detailed research papers that many of his contemporaries will have found time for and, by next February, some important career decisions must be made which may determine whether Webb can continue playing international, or any first-class, sport. The next step is a post as registrar in orthopaedics which is likely to take him from Bristol, possibly to the Midlands.

At the same time the Webb family will have increased since Amanda, his wife and his strongest advocate, is expecting their second child next week. A move from the West Country would deny the invaluable support of his in-laws on the many occasions when Webb is away for squad training or matches: "It will add a new dimension to domestic arrangements," Webb says drily.

During his temporary removal from the international scene Webb changed clubs, from Bristol — who expected too much of him in match-winning performances — to Bath where he could reconstruct his game and for whose support he remains hugely grateful. But the competitive instinct inherited from his parents (John, his father, also a doctor, was a double Blue in cricket and football at Oxford and three years running won the Kinnaird pairs cup in Eton fives) remained strong and his mental approach changed.

"Goal-kicking has become the most sensitive indictor of my mental state. I have to be relaxed to kick well. In the last two years I have become better at that. Earlier I thought I had to psyche myself up to really get into the game and I became like a startled rabbit.

"Then came the catharsis of giving up, if only briefly, and deciding why I played at all. It was to enjoy myself; I enjoy myself when I play well: you play well in a winning side. Bath were winning and gradually I found myself in a position where I was doing things rather than just responding to them.

"But I have never been more pleased than when I returned to the England side in Australia although I was aware of the implications. What could I offer in place of Simon Hodgkinson? Attack was the No. 1 difference and during the tour we had a big debate about how we wanted to play; presumably it was a case of a team finding its identity.

"Every team must have its perfect way of playing, depending on the individuals in the team. It doesn't always find it but the side now is happier playing the way we are. The forwards dominated things in 1990-1; on tour in Australia the backs showed they could play. We have all had our little ego-trips but now the prime aim is to produce the performance and forget the egos.

"Team sport at its highest is infinitely adaptable. My vision of the perfect team is one that never calls any moves because it responds immediately to any circumstance in any given conditions."

And records? "I'm interested in trying not to think about them. I would love to get them but that is secondary to winning the game. I didn't think anyone would pass Simon's 60 points in the championship [Webb has 55 from three games]. Fifteen points a game is a nightmare. And I never thought I would approach Dusty Hare's record so soon [234 against Hare's 240].

"But the satisfaction comes from being back in the squad. When you have never played, you can always believe you will. But having played, and then dropping out, I didn't believe I would get back." Rugby has been good for Jonathan Webb; it is hard not to believe that the stylish, thoughtful Webb is even better medicine for rugby.

Recall of Mesnel may force Scots to rethink tactics

BY ALAN LORIMER

FRANCE have made a late change to their already reshaped team for today's five nations' championship match at Murrayfield, where the winners could yet share the championship with England.

Sebastian Viars failed a late fitness test and his place on France's left wing is taken by Philippe Saint-Andre, who moves from centre, allowing Franc Mesnel to return to the side after being dropped. The new replacement is Stephane Ougier, the Toulouse player.

Mesnel's reappearance may force the Scots to think anew their tactics, Ian McGeechan noting that the French centre is "a very direct runner". The Scotland coach added: "France are geared up to moving the ball through the centres' hands. Their problem against England was one of height in the lineout. They will not have that same difficulty against us and, therefore, should win a lot more possession with which to use their backs. At times they are capable of spectacular rugby capable of making you suck your breath in just watching them."

McGeechan is taking a realistic approach to the game in spite of the fact that the French have not win at Murrayfield since 1978 and despite the French result against England three weeks ago. "In the middle part of that game they played a lot of good rugby but experienced two killer blows just before half-time which put them 15-3 down," he said.

Referring to the numerous French changes, McGeechan said: "These will have taken them one step away from everything that happened in Paris. Berbizier will want to divorce himself from all the events of that game; the changes should help him."

By contrast the Scots have made only one change, Rob Wainwright coming in for the injured Ian Smith. This, however, will give the Scots more options at the lineout where Wainwright, at 6ft 4in, can be expected to make a useful contribution at the tail.

Ian Smith, the player he succeeds, was responsible for much of the ball-winning on the ground in Dublin and that is a chore the Scots might expect the shorter-built Dave McIvor to perform with greater ease.

Today will be the last chance for the Murrayfield crowd to see David Sole, the Scotland captain, who is retiring at the end of the tour to Australia and also the last opportunity to stand on the two remaining terraced areas, which are to be demolished next week.

MURRAYFIELD TEAMS

Scotland			France	
A G Hastings (Watsonians)	15	Full back	J-L Sadourny (Colomiers)	15
A G Stanger (Hawick)	14	Right wing	J-B Lafond (Racing Club)	14
S Hastings (Watsonians)	13	Right centre	P Sella* (Agen)	13
S R P Lineen (Boroughmuir)	12	Left centre	F Mesnel (Racing Club)	12
I Tukalo (Selkirk)	11	Left wing	P Saint-André (Montferrand)	11
C M Chalmers (Melrose)	10	Stand-off	A Penaud (Brive)	10
A D Nicol (Dundee HSFP)	9	Scrum half	F Galthié (Colomiers)	9
D M B Sole* (Edinburgh Acads)	1	Prop	L Armary (Lourdes)	1
K S Milne (Harlot's FP)	2	Hooker	J-P Genet (Racing Club)	2
A P Burnell (London Scottish)	3	Prop	P Gallart (Béziers)	3
D J McIvor (Edinburgh Acads)	6	Flanker	J-F Tordo (Nice)	6
N G B Edwards (Harlequins)	4	Lock	M Cécillon (Bourgoin)	4
G W Weir (Melrose)	5	Lock	O Roumat (Dax)	5
R I Wainwright (Edinburgh Acads)	7	Flanker	L Cabannes (Racing Club)	7
D B White (London Scottish) *Captain	8	No. 8	A van Heerden (Tarbes) *Captain	8

Referee: F Burger (South Africa)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 D A Stark (Ayr), 17 A G Stitel (Melrose), 18 G H Oliver (Hawick), 19 D J Turnbull (Hawick), 20 P M Jones (Gloucester), 21 J Allan (Edinburgh Academicals)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 S Ougier (Toulouse), 17 P Montlaur (Agen), 18 A Heuber (Lourdes), 19 S Conchy (Bègles), 20 J-M Cadieu (Toulouse), 21 P Gimbert (Bègles)

☐ Scotland have played France 62 times, winning 29 and losing 30. France have not won at Murrayfield since 1978.

☐ Scotland's 21-0 win in 1990 was the first time France had been scoreless in the series since 1964. Only four of France's team remain, whereas ten of the Scotland team are still playing.

Battered captain sees a new dawn for Wales

BY PETER BILLS


Jones: one of the best

IN ANOTHER era, grand slams and triple crowns might have rained down on the head of Robert Jones, probably one of only two players (Emyr Lewis is the other) of world quality Wales have been able to field in these past three troubled years.

The Swansea scrum-half has a sound provenance, yet has failed to find reward in international rugby because of the plight of his country.

Only with the British Isles' 1989 tour of Australia has Jones been able to demonstrate his skills in a consistently successful side. Most of his 40 caps have been won against a background of dissent at Wales's troubles.

He grew up expecting something different. In his first years in the sport, Wales ruled European rugby. The great names from those times were all Welsh; successes came as easily as picking the ripe plum from the tree. Youngsters all over Wales assumed it would forever remain so.

Only after winning his first cap, against England in 1986, did Jones come to understand that even for Welshmen all glory is fleeting. Worse still, some of the defeats suffered by Welsh sides which included Jones have been all but unbearable. The 34-6 defeat by England on their last visit to Twickenham in 1990 was a blow Jones, as captain, still recalls with horror. "It was absolutely shattering and being captain made it worse. But I felt the disappointment even more because I have always believed Wales have always had the ability. But unfortunately, ever since I have been involved we have not put that ability into a team at international level. And the main reason has been the lack of organisation.

"We have never been organised in recent seasons and consequently have not achieved what we could have done. We have gone on to the field not knowing what to do or how to do it."

He acknowledges England's renaissance graciously: "They are a great side. In 1987 they were suffering as we are at the moment, but they persevered and now have a side capable of beating anyone in the world.

"There was never any question of me wanting to do anything but play for Wales. It has not been a great time for us, but you see I look at it from the viewpoint that I have been lucky enough to play for my country which is an enormous achievement in my eyes."

Now, at last, Jones spies a new dawn, and has sufficient confidence in its reality to believe that even a Twickenham defeat would not set the Welsh back to square one. He is enjoying being part of a new team which he believes has a future, which is more a comment on the determination of the new coaching regime.

"Newcomers are being offered a chance, and that is all anyone can expect," said Jones. Consistency in selection is being matched by clear direction on and off the field."

For Jones and for all Welshmen an international against England remains the ultimate. "Wales still look forward to the England match more than any other. We may have lost the Midas touch we had over them some years ago but the feeling is hereditary. When you grow up, playing for Wales against England is the be-all and end-all."



FOOTBALL

Liverpool ready to risk all in FA Cup

BY CLIVE WHITE

THE surprise inclusion yesterday of John Barnes, Ronnie Whelan and Michael Thomas in Liverpool's squad to face Aston Villa in the FA Cup quarter-final at Anfield confirmed the suspicion that it is a case of do-or-die tomorrow for the Merseysiders.

Not that they would ever concede it publicly, but Liverpool must know that their hopes of carrying off the Uefa Cup for a third time dissolved the moment the ball left the lefthal left foot of Claudio Branco in the 88th minute of their quarter-final defeat in Genoa on Wednesday.

Had it not been for the Brazilian's 35-yard rocket, which left Liverpool needing to score three goals without reply in the return on March 18, Barnes and company may well have been given until that time to recover more fully. Expediency is now the order of the day.

Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, will today contemplate pitching one, two or even all three of them into a quarter-final without any preparation to speak of.

Barnes has started just five senior games this season — finishing only three of them — due to a series of calf and Achilles injuries; Whelan has played two-and-a-half hours of reserve team football since August 31 because of persistent knee problems requiring two operations; and Thomas has been absent for a month with a hamstring injury.

"We are at home against a very good team and we will need every available quality player to be in the squad," Souness said. "We could do with fresh faces."

Rid of the constraints of Uefa's "four foreigner" rule, Souness is able to recall Grobbelaar, the Zimbabwe-born goalkeeper, in place of Hooper, who did not disgrace himself in Genoa despite the range of Branco's free kick. "It was not a difficult decision to reach," he said. "Bruce has done very well this year."

Souness must envy his counterpart, Ron Atkinson, who is so spoilt for choice that he is contemplating leaving out Dwight Yorke, the club's leading scorer and a marksman in every round of the competition so far.

It could be just a ruse; Villa have found it necessary to chivvy the young Trinidad and Tobago international recently and left him out of the goalless draw against Leeds United at Elland Road on Tuesday, when Dalian Atkinson made a rare appearance.

Nottingham Forest and Portsmouth, who contest another quarter-final at Fratton Park, are, along with Southampton, the only clubs among the remaining eight survivors whose season is not wholly dependent on their success in this competition, though how much of a consolation the Zenith Data Systems Cup would be to Saints, particularly if they relegated, is a moot point.

Forest, the FA Cup runners-up last season, will be determined to go one better but the prospect of guaranteed Wembley appearances in the Rumbelows Cup and the Zenith Data Systems Cup would provide a soft landing for a fall in what is the most fascinating tie of the lot.

Portsmouth, who are a long shot for promotion in the second division, will hope that Forest's physical exertions of the past week will have dulled their rapier counter-thrusts.

Southampton, who, conversely to Liverpool, came within a last-breath 30-yarder of going out of the competition in the previous round's replay against Bolton Wanderers, will need to show more self-belief against an improved Norwich City, if they are to dream on about repeating their feat of 16 years ago.

Cooper is accused

AN ASTONISHING attack on Terry Cooper, the Birmingham City manager, by his own chairman Samesh Kumar, yesterday cast further doubts over his future (Chris Moore writes).

Kumar accused Cooper of "lacking leadership" in the aftermath of last week's crowd riot. "I am sad and disappointed that at a difficult time for the club, with the fans asking for unity, the manager should be sitting on the fence," Kumar said.

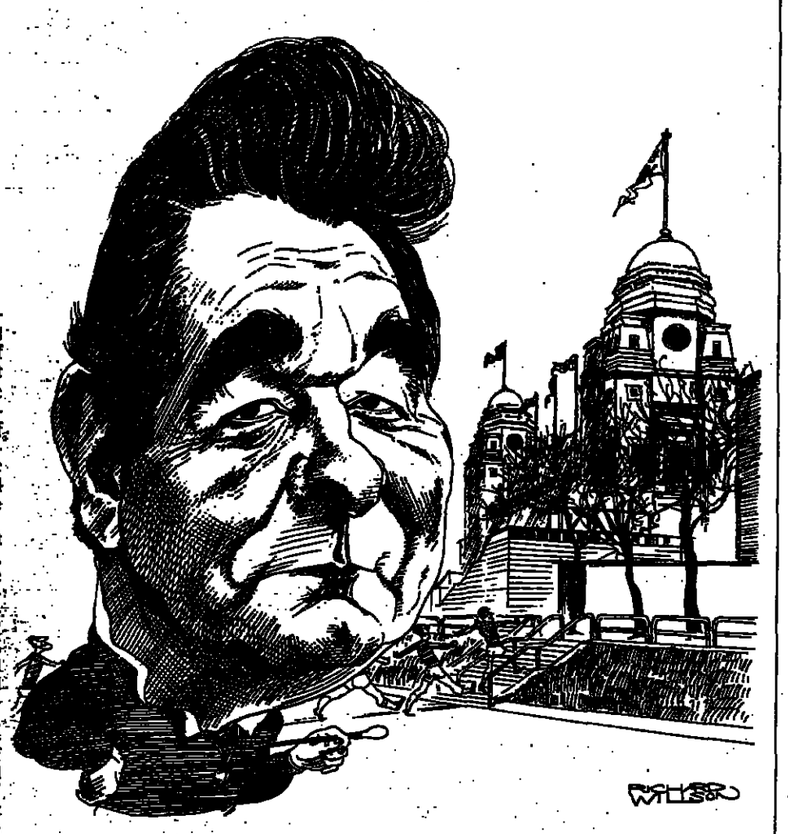
"Our supporters deserve more than that. We must have unity and show strength." Last night Cooper said he was "devastated" by Kumar's comments. Cooper has refused to confirm his future but in view of Kumar's comments it would appear the way has been cleared for his departure next week, probably back to Bristol City.

☐ Ian Ross, the former Liverpool and Aston Villa defender, has taken over from Eoin Hand as manager of Huddersfield. Since January last year, Ross has been assistant to Hand, who left by mutual agreement.

Nottingham Forest's manager retains the magic touch

Clough perks up for the cup

BY PETER BALL



BEFORE Christmas, whispers that Brian Clough had shot his bolt were the talk of football. In spite of his most expansive activity in the transfer market last summer since the high days of the Seventies, performances on the field were sluggish, while off the field he became ever more unpredictable.

His own performance at last season's FA Cup final, when he stayed on the bench before extra-time instead of rallying his struggling side, had raised eyebrows, his growing propensity for kissing all and sundry had embarrassed more than one rival manager. The Sage of Nottingham, it appeared, was rapidly becoming the Eccentric of Nottingham, purple-faced and rasping voiced.

Then, a week ago, Forest gave one of the most memorable performances in recent years to reach the Rumbelows Cup final. In sharp contrast to Wembley, Clough did get off the bench to aid his players, with telling effect.

This afternoon Forest go to Portsmouth in the FA Cup sixth round, just two matches away from setting a remarkable record of three Wembley Cup final appearances in one season. Some has-been.

Or perhaps some Indian Summer. For the League table continues to tell a different story to the Cup successes. And, as Clough, who is always honest with himself, is the first to say, the League table is the standard for judging success and failure.

It is difficult to explain, because Forest are not a typical "good cup side", full of hard-working battlers. They are one of the best football-playing teams in the country.

With a core of outstanding players, Des Walker, Stuart Pearce, Roy Keane and Nigel Clough, Forest should be one of the outstanding sides in a not very good first division, even though his new recruits have not been particularly successful. To dispense with Jemson and Sutton in the circumstances seemed almost deliberately perverse.

But the buying weaknesses and the unpredictability are nothing new. Perverse, but in character. "He is totally unique," Lee Chapman, a member of Forest's League Cup winning team in 1989, said. "The only rule is, 'always expect the unexpected'."

With no real replacement for the late Peter Taylor as his equal partner, whatever the work of Ronnie Fenton and Archie Gemmill, to leave in charge, his presence is perhaps more necessary these days. But suggestions that the League failures reflect Clough waning powers, or an inability to motivate players week in, week out as opposed to the special occasions, tend to receive short shrift from people who have played for him recently.

"I think the League results will stick in his craw," Neil Webb, another member of the 1989 team, said, "but I don't think you can say he is motivating them more for cup ties.

"His philosophy is the same for every game — he used to treat every match as equally important, even Simod Cup ties. Perhaps he is seen at the ground a bit less than before, but he often used to disappear for days when I was there. He's still got that force of personality that when he does walk in everyone perks up. As for being eccentric — he's always been eccentric, hasn't he?" Portsmouth supporters will not agree, but if it is the great eccentric's Indian Summer, everyone else will hope it culminates at Wembley in May.

Hockey stadium gets £1.5m help

BY JOHN GOODBODY

THE Foundation for Sport and the Arts yesterday gave £1.5 million to help build a national hockey stadium at Milton Keynes. The foundation has now donated more than £30 million to various sports since it was set up last August.

In the latest package of £16 million, grants of £1.3 million were also made to the National Coaching Foundation for special projects, £1 million to help the Surrey County Cricket Club pavilion restoration scheme at The Oval, £1 million to refurbish the Streatham ice rink in London and £1 million for the equestrian course at Hickstead.

Sean Kerly, the centre forward in the British team that won the gold medal at the 1988 Olympic Games, said that a national hockey stadium was "the one thing that has been missing for the sport. We need an emotional home just as football has Wembley and rugby union has Twickenham."

There was a capacity crowd for the hockey World Cup final at Willesden in 1986, but the stadium held only 12,000. "If we can sustain the momentum of Seoul by finishing in the top four at Barcelona, then we will attract big crowds for internationals at Milton Keynes," Kerly said.

The stadium, a joint enterprise of the Hockey Association and the All England Women's Hockey Association will have a 10,000 seats, possibly rising to 20,000.

On Monday the Sports Council gave £1.5 million to the £10 million venture; £500,000 will be raised through a trust and £6.5 million from extensive commercial developments on the site.

The foundation, funded by the pools companies, seeks to distribute £60 million in the first year of operation. Applications are verified by professional bodies, including the Sports Council and the Arts Council.

Tim Rice, the chairman of the foundation, said: "There is always the worry that someone will take us for a ride but this has not happened yet and we do examine the applications carefully."

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Irish match may go by the wayside

BY WALTER GAMMIE

TONY Jennings, the manager of the England semi-professional side, returned from Aberystwyth pleased with the way his six new caps had helped secure a 1-0 victory over Wales but uncertain whether a projected match against Northern Ireland would take place. He said: "If they can't find somewhere in the next fortnight, I don't think we will be able to play."

At Aberystwyth, Jennings paired two new caps, Terry Robbins and Paul Cavell, in attack, knowing he had forwards in peak form. Both had just scored four times in a match — Robbins, for Welling against Northwich Victoria, and Cavell, for Redbridge Forest in a 7-0 win at Cheltenham. It was, however, another new cap, Bobby Mayes, from Redbridge, who scored the decisive goal, from a free kick.

"The evening before the match, Steve Guppy, of Wycombe, went down with food poisoning and after 15 minutes, Delwyn Humphreys, of Kidderminster, went off with a thigh injury, so we'd lost the wide players with which we had planned to attack them," Jennings said. "But I was pleased with the way that our defence, midfield and attack combined."

Paul Richardson, of Redbridge, and the substitutes, Ryan Price, the Stafford Rangers goalkeeper, and Simon Read, of Farnborough Town, were the other players making their England bows.

MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FOOTBALL

FA Cup sixth round

Portsmouth v Nottm Forest

Portsmouth will be hoping their outstanding home form and youthful exuberance will be enough to offset Forest's greater experience. With Batters returning to defence, Portsmouth will revert to a sweeper system. McLoughlin, on loan from Southampton, may take over from Burns while Anderton and Awford are fit after withdrawing from the England Second Division side's representative match in Italy in midweek. Forest are likely to field the side that won at Tottenham in the Rumbelows Cup semi-final.

Southampton v Norwich

The temptation is to think that home advantage should swing it for Southampton who, despite their recent form — two defeats in 15 games — are still stuck firmly in the relegation mire. They may need a little more than their usual grittiness to avoid a replay against a Norwich team whose own recent form is rather more positive. Adams has broken down in training so Benali continues, as does Moore, in the absence of Wood and Hall. Norwich, contesting their third quarter-final in four years, add Crook to their squad but will be unchanged.

First division

Everton v Oldham

A back injury threatens to end Southall's unbroken run of 173 games, so Peyton is recalled from Bolton, where he is on loan, as a precaution. Harper has a similar injury while Cottee is a definite non-starter for a match that could see Everton leap-frog four teams to a more respectable position. Oldham, who take five former Evertonians back to Goodison, have Ritchie involved for the first time since Boxing day. He is on the bench.

Luton v Crystal Palace

A good opportunity for Luton to help their relegation cause against a Palace side that continues, it seems, to be at odds with itself. Day takes over the on-loan spot from Sutton in goal but it is the suspended Harford who may be the more difficult to replace; Campbell takes on the task on his home debut. Palace, held at home by Luton in the reverse fixture, are without Thomas (suspended) and Osborn (dislocated shoulder). Sinnott and Mortimer are expected back.

QPR v Manchester City

Rangers' propensity for drawing games — eight in their last ten — coupled with City's ability to take something from most games would seem to guarantee a stalemate. Simpson, signed from Swindon for £200,000 on Tuesday, should make his debut in place of either Reid or Hughes. David Brightwell continues in defence in place of Redmond, who has discussed his future at the club with player-manager Reid. Thompson may be recalled to the Rangers attack, now minus Wegerle.

Sheffield Wed v Coventry

Jemson returns for his first match since a car crash in January to help Wednesday continue their recovery since their seven-goal mauling by Arsenal. Coventry's claws are nothing like as sharp, having failed to score in six of their last seven games, but they are hoping that Drinkell will put that right in only his second start of the season. Rosario is suspended. Wednesday are without Harkes, who has tonsilitis.

Tottenham v Leeds

News of Leeds' good health will be the last thing that Tottenham will want to hear after their exhaustive and partially unsuccessful efforts of the past seven days. Though Dorigo is still injured, Sterland, Fairclough and Whitlow have all been declared fit while Chapman is ready to return to the scene of his horrendous facial injury a year ago. Gray, on loan from Palace, makes his debut and Walsh and Bergsson might also supply fresh limbs, with possibly Mabbutt standing down.

Wimbledon v Notts County

County could only draw against the same opponents at home a couple of weeks ago and will be hard pressed to match even that without Craig Short and Turner (both suspended) and Yates (knee injury). McClelland, on loan from Leeds, makes his debut and Draper returns. Wimbledon's form under Joe Kinnear has been a revelation. They have lost only once in ten League games. Hayes, on loan from Celtic, may be on the bench after scoring for the reserves. Fitzgerald retains his place in defence.

Tomorrow

FA Cup sixth round

Liverpool v Aston Villa

The importance of this tie to Liverpool's season is borne out by their desire to bring back Whelan, Barnes and Thomas despite minimal preparation after injury. Walters, the latest casualty, with a hamstring injury, is unlikely to recover in time. Conversely, Villa are spoilt for choice. Kubicki and Blake vie for the right-back spot vacated by Barrett, who is ineligible, while Sealey and Spink dispute the goalkeeper's position. Yorke is expected to be recalled after being omitted against Leeds in midweek.

☐ *Compiled by Clive White*

SHORT IN BRIEF

Defence by Jahanghir not certain

Jahangir Khan, the world No. 1, who has made unscheduled withdrawals from five of this season's eight leading events, flew home to Karachi yesterday still undecided about defending the British Open squash rackets title he has won for the past ten years.

The entry deadline is 5pm on Monday. "I want to talk to my father during the weekend," he said.

On a roller

Yachting: Sailboard '92, the annual dinghy exhibition at Crystal Palace, opens today

Full strength

Basketball: Mike Obaseki's return to fitness means that both Thames Valley Tigers and Kingston will be at full strength at the National Cup final in Sheffield tomorrow.

Wattana ahead

Snooker: James Wattana established a 5-3 lead over John Parrott after the first session of the Professional Championship final.

Super sub

Swimming: David Berkoff, a former world record holder, who retired after his submarine-style was restricted, qualified for the American Olympics team by placing second in the 100 metres backstroke trials at Indianapolis.

FOR THE RECORD

BADMINTON

STOCKHOLM: Swedish Open championships: Men's singles: First round: Ewee Mun Wong (Mal) bt P Ottosson (Swe), 10-15, 15-5, 15-6; Ahn Jae-chang (S Kor) bt Vimal Kumar (India), 15-11, 15-5; E Hack Ong (Mal) bt A Hansson (Swe), 15-2, 15-9; Park Sung-woo (S Kor) bt P Espersen (Den), 15-8, 15-10; R Bagga (India) bt U Svensson (Swe), 15-12, 15-3. Second round: P-E Hoyer-Larsen (Den) bt D Bhattacharya (India), 15-3, 15-8; K Hak-kyun (S Kor) bt P Andreasson (Swe), 15-11, 16-17, 15-8; Wong bt D Stenstrom (Swe), 15-7, 17-14; J Olsson (Swe) bt J Andersen (Den), 15-8, 15-11; C Thomsen (Den) bt R Magnusson (Swe), 15-8, 15-12; Ahn bt Ong, 15-8, 15-3; P Jantti (Fin) bt C Ljungmark (Swe), 15-4, 15-7; F Permadi (Indo) bt J-Tuvesson (Swe), 15-4, 6-15, 15-3; Park bt Tor-Egil Kristensen (Nor), 15-2, 15-3; L K-jin (S Kor) bt P Stevenson (Aus) 15-9, 15-6; T Stuer-Lauridsen (Den) bt R Gruvberg (Swe), 15-7, 15-6; J Olsson (Swe) bt Beggs, 15-1, 15-13.
Women's singles: First round: T Jiaohong (Tai) bt A Crabbe (Swe), 11-3, 11-1; P Soo-yun (S Kor) bt R Cator (Aus), 11-8, 11-3; C Martin (Den) bt K Eriksson (Swe), 11-4, 11-5; M S Bisht (India) bt J Muggeridge (GB), 11-8, 11-8; C Magnusson (Swe) bt V Sandberg (Swe), 11-0, 11-3; K Schmidt (Ger) bt T Dineen (GB), 11-6, 11-4; D Julien (Can) bt L Wittborg (Swe), 7-11, 11-5, 11-4; L Zhi-qun (Tai) bt K Ericsson (Swe), 11-3, 11-1; P Jin-hyun (S Kor) bt A Sendersson (Swe), 11-3, 11-1; Ye Zhaoying (Tai) bt M Borg (Swe), 11-1, 11-3; S Louis (GB) bt T Berg (Den), 11-5, 11-8; Lim X Ling (Swe) bt K Ubban (Ger), 11-1, 11-1; A Lao (Aus) bt L Andersson (Swe) 4-11, 11-0, 11-1; Yu-hong (Tai) bt C Bengtsson (Swe), 7-11, 11-6, 11-4; Z Abdullah (Sing) bt S Jacobson (Swe), 11-5, 11-0; P Nedergaard (Den) bt F Smith (GB), 11-2, 11-0.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): New York Knicks 101, Los Angeles Clippers 91; Washington Bullets 119, Dallas Mavericks 105; Chicago Bulls 113, Minnesota Timberwolves 100; Houston Rockets 114, Miami Heat 93; Phoenix Suns 118, Seattle Supersonics 105; Golden State Warriors 116, Cleveland Cavaliers 108.

CYCLING

TOUR OF MALLORCA: Fifth stage — 130.2 miles (Spain unless stated): 1, N Stephens (Aus), ONCE, 5hr 13min 14sec; 2, C Hernandez, Lotus, 5:13:29; 3, J Murguialday S, Amaya; 4, I Ayarzaguena, ONCE; 5, J Pedrero, Mavisa; 6, J Unzaga, Clas; 7, F Philippot (Fr), Banesto; 8, M de Guerelu, Wigarma; 9, J Mauleln, Clas; 10, F Garcia, Seur (all same time). Final overall positions: 1, J Murguialday S, Amaya, 20:15:14; 2, F Garcia, Seur; 3, F Philipot (Fr), Banesto; 4, J Mauleln, Clas; 5, I Ayarzaguena, ONCE; 6, O Rincon (Col), Kelme; 7, J Unzaga, Clas; 8, P Hilse Seur; 9, J Pedrero, Mavisa; 10, A M Diaz, Kelme (all same time).

GOLF

HONG KONG: Men's tournament: Second-round leaders: 131: T Watson (US), 65, 66. 136: R Rafferty (GB), 67, 71. 139: H Yu-ehu (Taiwan), 73, 66. 140: H Chin-sheng (Taiwan), 72, 68; B Langer (Ger), 71, 69; G Boros (US), 69, 71; Chen Tze-chung (Taiwan), 68, 72; P Martinez (Par), 68, 72.
MIAMI: Men's tournament: First-round leaders (US unless stated): 68: L Roberts, M Smith, F Couples, S Elkington (Aus). 67: R Floyd, D Waldorf, J Gallagher Jr, C Strange, F Funk, B Crenshaw, B Wadkins. 68: L Nelson, J D Blake, P H Horgan III, T Lehman, K Clearwater, L Ten Broeck, D Pohl, H Twitty, W Andrade. British: 72: A Lyle.
SADOWARACHO, Japan: Men's tournament: Second-round leaders (Japan unless stated): 135: T Ozaki, 68, 67; I Aoki, 64, 71. 137: K Idoki, 68, 69; T Tanaka, 67, 70; T M Chen (Taiwan), 66, 71. 138: Y Yamamoto, 70, 68. 139: S Jones (Aus), 72, 67.
POWAY, California: Women's tournament: First-round leaders (US unless stated): 68: B Thomas, V Skinner, D Lofland, J Dickinson, D Andrews. 70: K Williams, M Murphy, M Mallon, L Kean, E Crosby, D Coe (Can). H Alfredsson (Swe). British: 73: L Davies. 75: K Davies.

TENNIS

INDIAN WELLS, California: Men's tournament: Third round: A Chesnokov (Russia) bt J Courier (US), 6-4, 7-5; J Hlasek (Switz) bt P Sampras (US), 6-4, 3-6, 7-5; M Stich (Ger) bt D Rostagno (US), 6-2, 6-4; S Bruguera (Sp) bt P Korda (Cz), 7-5, 4-6, 6-0; E Sánchez (Sp) bt A Agassi (US), 6-3, 6-1; A Cherkasov (Russia) bt M Gustafsson (Swe), 6-3, 6-3.
COPENHAGEN: Men's tournament: Second round: A Jarryd (Swe) bt J Apell (Swe), 7-6, 4-6, 6-2.
BOCA RATON, Florida: Women's tournament: Third round: Z Garrison (US) bt B Schultz (Neth), 7-5, 4-6, 6-3; N Tauziat (Fr) bt R Zrubakova (Cz), 6-2, 7-6; B Rittner (Ger) bt L Meskhi (CIS), 6-2, 6-3; C Martinez (Sp) bt K Date (Japan), 6-1, 7-6; A Coetzer (SA) bt J Wiesner (Austria), 6-3, 6-1; G Sabatini (Arg) bt C Rubin (US), 6-2, 6-2; M J Fernandez (US) bt L Gildemeister (Peru), 6-0, 7-5.

SKIING

IIYAMA, Japan: World Cup freestyle event: Men's ballet: 1, R Kristiansen (Nor), 27.25pts; 2, L Spina (US), 26.75; 3, F Becker (Fr), 26.45; 4, D Walker (Can), 25.40; 5, A Weiss (Ger), 25.10; 6, R Franco (It), 24.05; 7, S Roxberg (US), 23.20; 8, K Pescolderung (It), 22.85; 9, K Hilpert (Switz), 22.05. 10, J Wintersteen (US), 18.45. Women's ballet: 1, J Snell (GB), 24.75; 2, C Kessling (Switz), 23.60; 3, S Petzold (US), 23.30; 4, M-Schmid (Switz), 21.30; 5, E Breen (US), 18.95.
HOLMENKOLLEN, Norway: 15km biathlon World Cup race: 1, A Reasova (CIS), 1hr 06min 58.4sec; 2, A Briand (Fr), 1:07:27.2; 3, G Ingeborg Nykkelmo (Nor), 1:07:43.8; 4, S Trosten (Nor), 1:08:27.8; 5, A Misersky (Ger), 1:09:04.8; 6, P Schaal (Ger), 1:09:25.5; 7, E Kristiansen (Nor), 1:09:34.4; 8, U Dial (Ger), 1:11:11.9; 9, J Gustschow (US), 1:12:35.1; 10, S Petcherskala (CIS), 1:12:40.2. World Cup standings: 1, Schaal, 138pts; 2, Briand, 124; 3, Reasova, 120; 4, Misersky, 116.

SNOOKER

THORNBURY: Strachan professional championships: Semi-finals: J Wattana (Thai) bt N Bond (Eng), 9-5. Frame scores (Wattana first): 29-84, 53-67, 80-23, 80-36, 86-1, 128-1, 92-1, 0-93; 120-6, 61-36, 59-55, 94-59, 14-85, 85-41. J Parrott (Eng) bt K Doherty (Ire), 9-7. Frame scores (Parrott first): 100-21, 95-0, 123-29, 79-1, 67-31, 67-74, 0-78, 5-68, 90-1, 49-82, 13-67, 65-35, 90-29, 8-128, 9-67, 74-40. Final: Wattana leads Parrott, 5-3. Frame scores (Wattana first): 18-66, 76-53, 82-25, 74-0, 54-73, 75-42, 76-1, 64-71.
WAREGAM, Belgium: Canal Plus European Challenge: Semi-finals: J Johnson bt M Hallett, 3-0; S Hendry bt G Wilkinson, 3-0.

SQUASH RACKETS

MADRID: Spanish women's open: Second round: H Wallace (Can) bt S Bradley (Aus), 15-10, 15-6, 15-3; L Irving (Aus) bt S Schone (Ger), 15-12, 17-15, 15-12; S Wright (Eng) bt T Myllyniemi (Fin), 11-15, 15-11, 4-15, 17-15, 15-11; M Le Moignan (Eng) bt B Hoogendoorn (Neth), 15-10, 15-8, 15-10. Quarter-finals: S Devoy (NZ) bt C Jackman (Eng), 15-12, 17-16, 15-10; M Martin (Aus) bt F Geaves (Eng), 15-11, 12-15, 15-4, 15-12.

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Vancouver Canucks 2, Boston Bruins 2 (OT); Minnesota North Stars 4, Detroit Red Wings 2; Quebec Nordiques 10, Hartford Whalers 4; New York Islanders 4, Chicago Blackhawks 4 (OT); Toronto Maple Leafs 5, Calgary Flames 5 (OT).

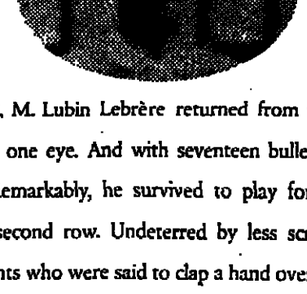
MOTOR RALLYING

PORTUGUESE RALLY: Standings after third stage: 1, J Kankkunen (Fin), Martini Lancia HF Integrale, 4hr 23min 08sec; 2, M Biasion (It), Ford Sierra Cosworth 4X4, at 1min 16sec; 3, C Sainz (Sp), Toyota Celica GT4, 1:37; 4, A Aghini (It), Sauro Farnocchia Martini Lancia HF Integrale, 2:23; 5, A Schwarz (Ger), Toyota Celica GT4, 3:45; 6, K Eriksson (Swe), Mitsubishi Galant GT4, 4:00.

YACHTING

SAN DIEGO, California: America's Cup defender trials: Third series: America³ bt Defiant, withdrew. Standings: America³ (America³ Syndicate), 24pts; Stars & Stripes (Team Dennis Conner), 11; Defiant (America³ Syndicate), 4.
HAYAMA, Japan: Shakido Cup International women's 470-class: 1, R Taran (CIS), 0.75pts; 2, Y Shige (Japan), 2pts; 3, V Aulnette (Fr), 3pts; 4, J Lidgett (Aus), 4pts; 5, L Egnot (NZ), 5pts.

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THE TIMES
SPORT
SATURDAY MARCH 7 1992

Second successive grand slam beckons as Wales are hit by Lewis's withdrawal

England holding all the aces

IAN STEWART



Eyes on the ball: the England team training yesterday for its match against Wales at Twickenham this afternoon

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

IF TWICKENHAM were twice the size it would still be packed to the rafters today. As it is, for the last international before work begins on a new East Stand, some 60,000 will throng in, four-fifths of them bright with expectation that England will win a second successive grand slam and rugby union's five nations' championship by beating Wales.

The remaining fifth — the Rugby Football Union's estimate of likely Welsh support — travel with their hopes dampened by the withdrawal yesterday of Emyr Lewis, by a distance the outstanding Welsh player of the last year. Lewis, the Llanelli flanker, has not recovered from severe gastroenteritis and returned home for further treatment, leaving Martyn Morris, of Neath, to win his eleventh cap.

It was thought initially that Lewis, aged 23, might not have recovered from ankle injuries received in his club's cup match with Neath a fortnight ago. However, his illness has been so apparent this week that Morris has taken his place in all the training and now, after seven years of intermittent international rugby, plays his first game against England with Sean Legge, who toured Australia last summer, joining the replacements.

"Morris will offer us plenty," Alan Davies, the Wales coach, said, but nobody will know better than he the physical and psychological blow this will be to a Wales side still in the throes of discovering itself. The back row was generally recognised as being the greatest source of Welsh strength: "Probably more destructive than creative in broken play, but very good at going forward," Dick Best, the England coach, said.

A narrow victory over Ireland and an almost equally narrow defeat by France have caused Wales to think better of their prospects, constructed broadly on the successful rugby played by Swansea (whose Tony Clement came through a fitness test on his ankle) and Llanelli. The players, as individuals, have little reason to think poorly of themselves, but collectively they are years behind the England side, some of whom will run out to Twickenham's roar for the last time today.

Peter Winterbottom has already said he will not play international rugby again; Rory Underwood, with a mind to his RAF career, made a similar statement yesterday. The prospects of seeing Wade Dooley, Mickey Skinner and Simon Halliday at this level again are limited, though the lure of a contest with South Africa in November has created the prospect of one last outing.

That, though, depends on the success of the B team in New Zealand this summer and the attitude of the management, which may take the view that the old faithfuls have earned the right to a final fling or, conversely, may feel that those playing against South Africa in November should make themselves available for next season's championship, too.

What is not in dispute is the degree to which this England XV is now at peace with itself, in playing and philosophical terms. Even when they have been on the back foot in this championship there has been no sign of panic, which has made the counter-blows, when they have come, all the more devastating.

Best let slip the opinion this week that the Wales pack is on a par with England's; he may well believe it, but nothing could be better calculated to stir up his own forwards. "Most of Alan Davies's teams are good at pinpointing weaknesses in the other side," Best added. The next step is to take advantage of those weaknesses, and that may prove more difficult.

There can have been few occasions in the 111 years of this series when England were more overwhelmingly favourites, as distinct from the climax of last season's championship when France arrived at Twickenham also in pursuit of the grand slam. Then, England won by two points. Their advantage today, soundly based on a team of all-round quality, must surely be far more substantial. New records beckon: aggregate points for the championship, both by the team and an individual, Jonathan Webb, who needs six points to pass the tally of 60 points established last season by Simon Hodgkinson.

The RFU has warned people without tickets not to come to Twickenham. If they hope to purchase tickets from unauthorised sources, they may still not see the game because a quantity of tickets have been lost or stolen and official duplicates issued which make the originals redundant. Those who do see the game, which is sponsored by British Gas, should see England achieve only the fourth back-to-back grand slam in the history of the championship.

Coaches' view, page 34
Webb's antidote, page 34
Scotland preview, page 34
Agony and ecstasy, Weekend Times

England			Wales
J M Webb (Bath)	15	Full back	A Clement (Swansea)
S J Halliday (Harlequins)	14	Right wing	I C Evans* (Llanelli)
W D C Carling* (Harlequins)	13	Right centre	N R Jenkins (Pontypridd)
J C Guscott (Bath)	12	Left centre	I S Gibbs (Swansea)
R Underwood (Leicester/RAF)	11	Left wing	M R Hall (Cardiff)
C R Andrew (Toulouse)	10	Stand-off	C J Stephens (Llanelli)
C D Morris (Orrell)	9	Scrum half	R N Jones (Swansea)
J Leonard (Harlequins)	1	Prop	M Griffiths (Cardiff)
B C Moore (Harlequins)	2	Hooker	G R Jenkins (Swansea)
J A Probyn (Wasps)	3	Prop	L Delaney (Llanelli)
M G Skinner (Harlequins)	6	Flanker	M S Morris (Neath)
M C Bayfield (Northampton)	4	Lock	G O Llewellyn (Neath)
W A Dooley (P Grasshoppers)	5	Lock	A H Copsey (Llanelli)
P J Winterbottom (Harlequins)	7	Flanker	R E Webster (Swansea)
D Richards (Leicester)	8	No. 8	S Davies (Swansea)

*Captain

Referee: R J Megson (Scotland)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 N J Heslop (Orrell), 17 D Pears (Harlequins), 18 R J Hill (Bath), 19 M P Hynes (Orrell), 20 C J Olver (Northampton), 21 T A K Rodber (Northampton/Army)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 R H St J B-Moon (Llanelli), 17 M A Rayer (Cardiff), 18 D C Fox (Llanelli), 19 D Joseph (Swansea), 20 S Roy (Cardiff), 21 S Legge (South Wales Police)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	3	0	0	94	29	6
Wales	3	2	1	0	1	25	27	2
Scotland	3	2	1	0	1	25	35	2
France	3	2	1	0	1	25	40	2
Ireland	3	0	0	3	34	72	0

RESULTS: Jan 18: Ireland 15, Wales 16; Scotland 7, England 25. Feb 1: England 38, Ireland 9; Wales 9, France 12. Feb 15: France 13, England 31; Ireland 10, Scotland 18.

MATCHES TO COME: Today: England v Wales; Scotland v France. Mar 21: France v Ireland; Wales v Scotland.

MATCH FACTS: England have twice achieved back-to-back grand slams, in 1913-4 and 1923-4. Wales are the only other country to have done so, in 1908-9. England now have nine grand slams, Wales eight, France four, Scotland three and Ireland one.

This will be the 98th meeting between the countries, of which England have won 38 and Wales 47. England have won the last two matches but must go back over 60 years to find a longer winning run, that of 1927-30.

Results over the last decade: 1982: England 17, Wales 7. 1983: Wales 13, England 13. 1984: England 15, Wales 24. 1985: Wales 24, England 15. 1986: England 21, Wales 18. 1987: Wales 19, England 12. Wales 16, England 3 (Brisbane). 1988: England 3, Wales 11. 1989: Wales 12, England 9. 1990: England 34, Wales 6. 1991: Wales 6, England 25.

The 1990 match at Twickenham constitutes both England's highest score and biggest winning margin, by 28 points, against the Welsh. The worst defeat was by 25-0 in Cardiff in 1905, although Wales's highest total was their 34-21 victory in Cardiff in 1967.

Jonathan Webb requires seven points to pass Dusty Hare's aggregate of 240, the record points tally for any English player. Should he do so he would also establish an all-comers record for a championship season, set by Simon Hodgkinson at 60 last year; Webb stands on 55 from England's three matches.

Nine points would give England the record aggregate for the championship, surpassing the 102 points scored by Wales in 1978. Five members of the Welsh pack have never played against England and only Ieuan Evans, Robert Jones and Tony Clement are left of the last Welsh side to win at Twickenham, in 1988.

Andrew (1936) and Hodgkinson (1991) have both scored 21 points in a match against Wales. Keith Jarrett holds the Welsh record of 19, in 1967.

Only four players have scored tries in each match of a championship season: Carson Catcheside (England, 1924), A. C. "Johnny" Wallace (Scotland, 1925), Patrick Estève (France, 1983) and Philippe Sella (France, 1986). Rory Underwood and Dewi Morris will join them if they score today.

Underwood confirms retirement



Underwood: last match

By David Hands

RORY Underwood, who has played more times and scored more tries for England than any other player, confirmed yesterday that he will retire from international rugby after today's game at Twickenham.

Underwood, an RAF flight lieutenant, is only 28, but he has the opportunity this year to resume his ambition to fly single-seat jets; he will leave his posting at Wyton later this month and starts fast-jet training at Valley in Anglesey in mid-April.

In addition, the commercial opportunities now open to players permit him to venture into the promotion of leisurewear with a Barnsley company, Greyhound Sports Wear, and he is expected to publish an autobiography in the autumn.

He will continue to play for Leicester for at least another season but the reduction of his rugby commitments will permit him more time with his wife and two small daughters.

Underwood made his international debut in 1984, against Ireland, and today will be his 55th appearance. He has scored 35 tries (five against Fiji in 1989) to stand third in the world list of all-time try scorers, behind David Campese and Serge Blanco.

He has become recognised as one of the most clinical finishers in international rugby and, in the last four years, has scored almost at the rate of a try a match. If he or Dewi Morris score today it will be the first time since 1924 that an Englishman had scored in all four matches.

Stealing a march

Matt Biondi won his showdown with Tom Jager in the 50-metres freestyle at the American Olympic swimming trials. They next expect to meet in the final at the Olympics in Barcelona.

Andretti defends

A 24-car field headed by last year's winner, John Andretti, will contest the Daikyo Indycar grand prix at Surfers Paradise on Queensland's Gold Coast on March 22.

Italy promise stern test for understudies

From Bryan Stiles in Rome

WHILE their elders and betters are toiling to secure a second successive grand slam at Twickenham, the understudies will not waste time watching impatiently from the wings. They will be seeking a "grand slam" of their own in Rome.

Victory over Italy B will give the England B team a clean sweep of the season, with four wins in four games, and strengthen the conviction that their talent has been nurtured well and will fill the cracks in the senior side when retirements are confirmed.

But victory in Rome today will not come easy. The Italians have won the approval of the Rugby Football Union to field 12 of the players who made them such a lively proposition in the World Cup last autumn.

With home support and the confidence gained from a rousing display against France A in the contintental Fira championship a fortnight ago, the Italians are likely to test England's hopefuls to the limit.

Unfortunately, they will be without the exciting scrum half, Francescato, and his partner, Bonomi, through injury, but they intend to field Giovenelli, the flanker who was suspended for five weeks three weeks ago for stamping. The Italian federation says the ban applies only to club matches. It is a decision that could be discussed at the next International Board meeting in April.

The onus is on Stuart Barnes, the experienced England captain, to guide his young charges through what is likely to be a torrid encounter. They have rattled up 103 points in beating Spain, Ireland and France this season, but will find points harder to come by this afternoon.

ITALY B: L Troiani; P Vaccari, S Barba, S Bordon, Marcello Cuttitta; D Dominguez, A Ghini; Massimo Cuttitta, G Pivetta, A Piazza, A Bottacchiari, R Favaro, D Sesenna, M Giovanelli, D Berretta.
ENGLAND B: I Hunter (Northampton); J Fallon (Bath), P de Glanville (Bath), J Buckton (Saracens), T Underwood (Leicester); S Barnes (Bath), S Bates (Wasps); G Baldwin (Northampton), G Dawe (Bath), A Mullins (Harlequins), M Greenwood (Nottingham), M Johnson (Leicester), D Sims (Gloucester), N Back (Leicester), B Clarke (Bath).

Pepper inspires worthy display

England Students 25
Wales Students 16

By Peter Bills

ANYONE doubting that English rugby lacks strength in depth should have been at Newbury yesterday. England Students were worthy winners, their forwards laying a solid base for the backs to exploit effectively.

England won by three goals, a try and a penalty goal to a goal, a try and two penalty goals, and Pepper could not have played a more inspirational role as captain. He scored three of his side's four tries and covered industriously.

Wales contained eight regular players from their premier division and although Thomas, McCarthy and John did their best to improvise, Wales won insufficient ball to trouble their opponents seriously.

England took an 18-0 lead within 32 minutes and, when Pepper was driven over after half-time to make it 22-7, they relaxed and allowed Wales some late points.

SCORERS: England: Tries: Pepper (3), Thorneycroft. Conversions: Gregory (3). Penalty goal: Dorsett. Wales: Tries: Thomas (2). Conversions: I. Evans. Penalty goals: I. Evans (2).
ENGLAND: C Dorsett (Loughborough Univ); A Parton (Cambridge Univ), M Fielden (Harper Adams Agricultural Coll), L Boyle (Leicester Poly), H Thorneycroft (Nottingham Poly); G Gregory (Sheffield Poly), K Bracken (Bristol Univ); C Clark (Swansea Univ), T Beddow (St Paul's Coll), J Mallett (Bath Coll), C Tarbuck (West London IHE), A Millward (Oxford Univ), A Snow (St Andrew's Univ), M Pepper (Leeds Poly), C Barrow (Exeter Univ).
WALES: L Evans (Welsh School of Medicine); C Thomas (Cardiff IHE), J Bell (Swansea Univ), I Lewis (Bath Univ), S Barclay (Oxford Univ); M McCarthy (West London IHE), P John (Cardiff IHE), I Buckett (Swansea Univ), J Humphries (Polytechnic of Wales), M Morgan (Gwent College), O Lloyd (Cardiff IHE), D Evans (Oxford Univ; rep. C Goodwin, Cardiff IHE), D Jones (Loughborough Univ), R Pask (Oxford Univ), P Pook (Teesside Poly).
Referee: S Cesteret (France).

Players' hotel beds fail to measure up

By Our Sports Staff

Ballarat, Australia: The England cricket team walked out of its official World Cup hotel yesterday after saying the beds were not big enough, preferring instead to make a 100-mile return trip to Melbourne by coach.

England play Sri Lanka in their next round-robin match here tomorrow, and the England team manager, Mickey Stewart, said: "We have some important matches to play, and everyone needs to have the right amount of sleep.

"It was obvious [the beds were not big enough] as soon as we got there. The motel was full up and could not supply any more beds suitable for the size of our cricketers."

The team later booked into the five-star Regent of Melbourne hotel, its base for previous visits to that city.

Paul Rice, manager of the Old Ballarat Village motel, said the team would return on Sunday.

☐ Raman Subba Row, the former chairman of the Test and County Cricket Board, will be the match referee for the three limited-overs internationals and the Test match between West Indies and South Africa in April.

Table and results, page 31
Gooch basks, page 31

Souness is asked to explain by FA

By Clive White

GRAEME Souness, the Liverpool manager, has been asked by the Football Association to explain his comments about Stephen Lodge, the Barnsley referee, following the goalless draw against Southampton at Anfield last Saturday.

Souness will almost certainly face a misconduct charge after accusing Lodge of not affording his players proper protection against what he saw as physical intimidation from Southampton. Souness said: "If that is the refereeing standard that is going to prevail in the first division, then English football does not have a future."

Ian Branfoot, the Southampton manager, criticised Souness for questioning "our professionalism and ability to play the game within the framework of the law".

Souness has recalled John Barnes, Ronnie Whelan and Michael Thomas after injury and included them in his squad for the FA Cup quarter-final against Aston Villa.

Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, is considering leaving out Dwight Yorke, who has scored in every round, in favour of Dalian Atkinson, who returned to the side in the goalless draw against Leeds United at Elland Road on Tuesday. "I have to take into account that he's our leading scorer," Atkinson said. "But I may look at the team for this specific match as the one most likely to get us a result."

Mervyn Day has joined Luton Town on a month's loan from Leeds as replacement for Steve Sutton.

Clough's touch, page 35

SIMON BARNES ON SATURDAY

Bastion breached

MEMO to all MCC types: there is a real gin-spluttering carefully concealed among the usual gems in the forthcoming *Wisden*.

K. Mills, you will read, finished the season with a batting average of 44.33, highest score 109, as well as taking 12 wickets at 10.91 each. Swallow that gin before reading on: for K. Mills's name is Kate, and she performed these stirring deeds for Roedean girl's school.

Yes, for the first time, the Yellow Pages, as *Wisden* was nicknamed by its previous editor, is carrying information about schoolgirls' cricket. Both Roedean and Dunstone College are represented.

"It is a natural thing to do," the present editor, Graeme Wright, said. "It reflects my interest in the human race."

Alas, Kate Mills will not be with the Roedean team next season, to continue hooking 'em for four from outside off stump, a favourite ploy of hers. She will be back in Australia, learning to be a vet.

"But most of the rest of the side is still with us," Andrew England, the Roedean cricket coach, said. "We are hoping for great things." Great deeds, to be recorded in the great Yellow Pages. Cricket marches on.

Plodding on

MORE on Steve Edwards, the Marathon Marathon Marathon Man. He has already broken the world record for marathons run during a calendar year: today he adds to the collection an indoor marathon. He has won permission from the organisers of a 24-hour race in Birmingham to run the necessary distance and then drop out.

Tomorrow, if he hasn't collapsed from dizziness after running 212 laps of a 200 metre circuit, he goes to London to — you've guessed it — run a marathon. That will bring his year to an end, leaving him with the total of 87 marathons, eclipsing the previous record of 74. So, as a special treat, he will run the London Marathon on April 12, representing the elephant charity, Tuskforce.

Jealous Guy

SKI-jumping notes: why is J. Guy, of France, not famous? He did worse than Eddie Edwards did at Calgary. He jumped 70 metres, 53 metres behind the winner. Eddie's differential was a mere 47 metres. Britain, assisted by Barbour Index of Windsor, has some young guns who believe they could beat Eddie *and* the Frenchman: I wait agog for the results of the Lowlander's *ski-jumping competition at Isny on March 6.*

Forerunner

GOLFING bargain of the year: you can probably buy a bit of film from a golf match for just £20,000. This is the earliest known filmed golfing action, and it involves a challenge match between Willie Park and Willie Fernie that took place at Musselburgh in 1898.

You can bid for it this summer at a Phillips auction in Edinburgh. They also have an eighteenth-century golf club ("square toe, curved face iron"), which is expected to fetch up to £50,000.



It is all too much for me. I send greetings to Brian Whittle, the famous shoeless relay runner, who has the right approach to the game: to get it over with as quickly as possible. He plans next month an attempt on the world record for the fastest round of golf, as a charity stunt. The record is held by Steve Scott, of the United States, who completed a 6,025-yard course in 29min 33.1sec, using only a three-iron and a pitching wedge. I have always believed that players, rather than spectators, should do the running.

Hate mail

MORE from Gubby Allen's newly released Bodyline letters to his father, letters in which his dislike of his captain, Douglas Jardine, is made clear for the first time.

Allen always maintained an appearance of loyalty during his lifetime. "I forgot to tell you some of the funny but unkind things the crew shouted at Douglas at Adelaide," he said. After expressing this well-bred disdain, he plunges into his captain's discomfiture with undisguised relish. "He was flicking flies off his face while batting and one of them shouted: 'Don't chase them away, they're your only friends in Adelaide'." With Allen's posthumous revelations, it appears that the barracker was right.

Ploy fails

LATERAL thinking: Foggia football club, fed up with free-loaders ("my brother's wife's uncle's cat knows the chairman's cat"), announced it would have a special gate for all those who "believed they were entitled to free admission", hoping to identify and deal with them. Of course, it didn't work. Many paying customers inadvertently went through the freebie gate brandishing their tickets.

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Play fails

WEEKEND TIMES

SATURDAY MARCH 7 1992



COLOURSPORT

Controlled aggression: last year England played Wales and comfortably won the grand slam. Will the all-conquering England side be able to win two years in succession when the two teams clash at Twickenham this afternoon?

Agony and ecstasy

England meet Wales today chasing their second successive grand slam. Godfrey Smith pays tribute to the magic of rugby

There must be a doctor or dentist somewhere in our islands who is not a rugby nut, but I have yet to meet him. Dentists are if anything worse. If you go to see our chap Neil, for instance, the week after an international, you are hardly in his chair and his drill at its ghastly work before he's away: "Did you see that Guscott dummy? Sheer magic." Zzzzzzz. "For chaps like you and me who've played at centre . . ." zzzzzzz. ". . . though nobody would believe it to look at us now" . . . "zzzzzzzzz" . . . "just to sell one dummy like that in your lifetime makes it all worth while. Have a rinse." I enjoy talking rugby as much as the next man, but there's a time and place for everything.

Then there was the redoubtable Dr Ronald Cove-Smith, who captained Merchant Taylors, Cambridge, Middlesex, England, and the British Lions, and was for many years our family GP. His signature was enough to bring a broad grin to the face of any doctor who saw it and a string of reminiscence; most popularly the true story of how a burglar was ill-advised enough to break in to Cove's house, was felled with a flying tackle by the great doctor, and locked in the lavatory till the police arrived.

Nor is it just doctors and dentists whose importunity makes every international at Twickenham sold out five times over. Rugby fever has got into the island race and looks unlikely to be eradicated. And not only into this island. A hundred countries now play the game; Japan has 3,500 clubs to our 2,000. The consequence of all this is that the battle to find tickets grows fiercer every year.

I met two men in our little town of Malmesbury who were both going over to the splenetic encounter between England and France three weeks ago. One, a teacher, had a ticket sent by the RFU to his school. It had cost him £3. The other was a local businessman who was travelling with a package laid on by Mike Burton, that rugged Gloucester and England prop forward of yesteryear. It was costing him £300, but would include his flight, his Paris hotel, and of course, his ticket. Both men thought they had a bargain, and I daresay they had.

It seems to me, though, even harder to get your car than yourself into Twickers these days. Forty years ago, we parked with no problems under an old oak in the charming little east car park. That is where Rugby HQ now stands. The west car park is now swallowed up by debenture holders and officials. That means that the ordinary punter who is not rich enough to afford a debenture is pushed round to the north car park, which cannot possibly cope with the demand. Persuading the Cardinal Vaughan school on the west boundary to take cars on match days has helped, but cannot begin to solve the problem. Money is the name of the game nowadays, and when money comes into a sport at one end, the fun usually leaves it at the other.

The fun has not gone out of rugby yet though. This afternoon Payne and Gunter, official caterers at Twickers, will sell their usual 20,000 pints of beer and 10,000 hamburgers or hot dogs, and that represents only the frugal and populist end of the market. It is an abiding miracle that despite all the booze put away at Twickers, there has never yet been any crowd violence. If that ever happens, the party, for me at any rate, will be over.

Philip Toynbee famously remarked that a bomb under the west car park on an international day would end fascism in England for a generation. In sober truth, any lurking fascists are likely to be drowned out by shoals of schoolmasters down from the north, Welsh miners, Scottish pipers, and Frenchmen on a weekend spree from the Dordogne. For the Frenchmen in particular, Twickers is a huge culture shock. Back home in Paris at the Parc des Princes there are no car parks and precious few women. They are agreeably surprised to see how many girls come along, and not just to do the picnics.

I asked one girl at Twickers what she was most looked forward to. "The thighs," she said. I hope she got her money's worth.

Nor of course is it any longer a male spectator sport, for women. Female spongemen are a familiar and welcome (not to say skilled) part of club rugby nowadays, and have already run on to minister at Twickers (though not yet in an international). A girl called Maggie Waugh made some kind of history a couple of seasons ago by getting married in the morning and turning out as hooker for Sale women's XV in the afternoon. The old rugby song about the "Marrying Kind of Maid" clearly needs a new verse. For no part of the rugby experience is reserved for men only any more.

The girls are increasingly joining in the rich social life that goes on after the game, and which in living memory was seen as one of the last bastions of the macho male. Nothing in rugby life is more idiosyncratic than that singing after the game. Comic and coarse, subversive and cynical, they now make up a huge subterranean folklore that has spread wherever rugby is played and richly deserve their own chronicler.

Some clubs, indeed, already print and bind the songs so that players can take them abroad on that other great staple of rugby life, the Easter tour. One club near where I live, Cirencester, prefaces them with a list of hints for young players going on tour for the first time, which strikes me as eminently sensible: (1) Be courteous to your hosts. (2) Be on time for all appointments. (3) Be considerate. (4) Be particularly careful regarding personal cleanliness. (5) Dress smartly for matches, but during leisure time casual wear is perfectly acceptable. (6) Make your own arrangements with your hosts regarding personal clothes washing. (7) At all times make sure your documents, cash and belongings are secure. (8) Do not enter into discussions or arguments regarding politics or race. (9) If you feel so inclined, buy a small gift or present for your host. (10) During leisure time in cities avoid being alone, and also dirty joints. (11) Please be conscious of the fact that the police in A[illegible] are far more rigid than our own police.

Follow that lot and you won't come to much harm. You will, on the contrary, come to much good, because there is nothing quite like the [illegible]ship which [illegible] the world over. [illegible] they were [illegible] are [illegible] is [illegible] said by those who have tried being to be second only to the act of love itself, and a delight to watch. Moments of sudden beauty will stem from the seeming chaos at ruck and maul. Tries will be scored which linger in the mind for life.

While Obolensky's celebrated try against the All Blacks in 1936 is still reckoned the greatest ever seen at Twickers by an older generation, there are those who will argue that the French try against England last April was yet more magical. Those fortunate few who saw both say they can't be compared: Obo's was a great solo run, Saint-André's was the climax of a sublime passing movement inspired and initiated by the footballing genius of Serge Blanco. Let us give thanks for both.

What is the game's secret? Anyone's guess, but I believe the ovoid shape of the ball, based on the pig's bladder from which the first balls were made at Rugby school, gives it that sheer random unpredictability and so its appeal to something deep in our folk memory. It gains immeasurably too from being played in three dimensions. Soccer, it is true, is also played in the air, but not, at any expert level, in the high air. In rugby the high ball, the garryowen, or the up-and-under, is part of its majestic and random fascination.

Perhaps it is only right that a game which thrives on such random thrall should now face so many options for the future. The laws of the game are continually evolving. Yet the biggest single challenge over the game remains unquestionably that of money. It was the great Gareth Edwards, no less, who remarked that while you were on one side of the world getting your ribs kicked in for your country, the gas bills were still coming in at home. It is hard to see why young men who are giving pleasure to millions and making millions for others who market that pleasure should not enjoy a slice of the action.

Yet the menace of cash-driven sport is evident all around us. The men who run rugby will have to move warily indeed through this minefield.

Meantime, I suppose the England full-back Jonathan Webb, who removed an appendix one Saturday morning and turned out in a league match that afternoon, [illegible] classic example of [illegible] should ideally be done.

One banker in all this ebb and flow remains the referee; the gear-lever, without whom the mighty engine could not thrum into life. I believe that we have better referees than ever nowadays; whether they are unassailable stars like Clive Norling or gallant arbiters like Stephen Hilditch, who struck such brave blows for the game in Paris three weeks ago. When the referee is not safe (and he was none too safe in Paris that day) the game too, in my judgment, is not safe either. We must ponder that.

Meanwhile, I like to believe that the heart of the game will remain in the clubs, and it is one of the true pleasures of living where I do that I can see the slightly sagging goalposts of Minety second XV from the window. When they began some dozen years ago, they wrote asking if I would care to become a vice-president and occasional third XV prop forward. They said they had two claims to fame: they were then the smallest club in England; and they had the ugliest colours, since pots of mauve and green paint were the only ones available to them when they painted the goal posts. If I said yes, well and good; if no, there was no need to worry; they had already been turned down by the Duke of Beaufort, Phil Bennett and Princess Diana.

It is as one of the many proud vice-presidents of Minety RFC that I take this chance to express my faith in and my thanks for the best of all winter games.

● *Godfrey Smith writes a regular column for* The Sunday Times. *His rugby anthology* Take The Ball And Run *is published by Pavilion at £15.99.*

ARTS AND TELEVISION PAGES 3.5



Fay Weldon celebrates *Loving Brecht*, Elaine Feinstein's novel, and Lynne Truss ponders Her Majesty's pleasure

FOOD AND DRINK PAGES 6.7



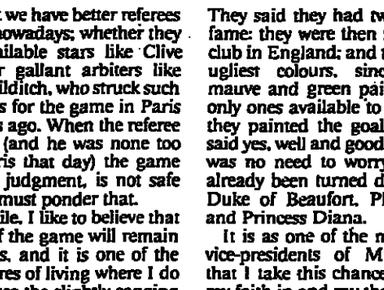
Frances Bissell recreates the flavours of Southeast Asia while Jonathan Meades splashes out on an Indian

OUT OF TOWN PAGE 9



Paul Heiney stops a farmyard revolt with budget promises, and Brian Clarke draws a bead on a clay pigeon

How to play a romantic lead in London's West End



A gourmet dinner served on fine china and pink linen table cloths, with a view of the River Thames. Champagne on ice and hand-made chocolates in your room. What better setting for a relaxed weekend? Particularly when the hotel is The Savoy, possibly the most famous in the world. And more particularly, when one night, including English breakfast, will cost only £290 for two. How can anyone resist such an invitation? Have the weekend of your life and allow The Savoy to set the scene.

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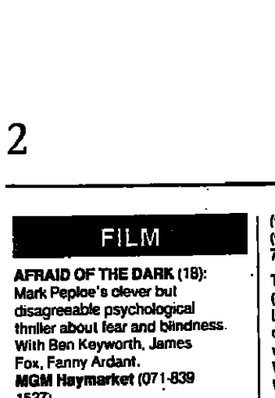
FILM

AFRAID OF THE DARK (18): Mark Peploe's clever but disagreeable psychological thriller about fear and blindness. With Ben Keyworth, James Fox, Fanny Ardant.
MGM Haymarket (071-839 1527).

BARTON FINK (15) The Coen brothers' marvellous macabre comedy about a New York playwright all at sea in Forties Hollywood. Starring John Turturro, John Goodman. A triple Cannes prizewinner.
Gate (071-727 4043) **Lumière** (071-836 0691) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3366).

BLACK ROBE (15): Seventeenth- century Jesuit (Lothaire Bluteau) tries to convert Indians in northern Quebec Intelligent epic from Brian Moore's novel. Director, Bruce Beresford.
MGM Trocadero (071-434 0031) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **Plaza** (071-497 9999).

CAPE FEAR (18). Demonic ex-con Robert De Niro terrorises Nick Nolte and family Martin Scorsese's ferocious, unpleasant remake of a classic revenge thriller. With Jessica Lange, Juliette Lewis
Empire (071-497 9999) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2636) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Screen on the Green** (071-226 3520) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).



Terrified: Juliette Lewis and Jessica Lange in *Cape Fear*

CROSS MY HEART (15): Wan, visually dull French tale of children concealing a mother's death from the authorities. With Sylvain Copans; director, Jacques Fansten.
Curzon Phoenix (071-240 9661).

DEATH IN BRUNSWICK (15): Sam Neill as an ageing mother's boy sucked into love, violence and accidental murder. Tasty black comedy from new Australian director John Ruane.
MGM Tottenham Court Road (071-636 6148) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Metro** (071-437 0757).

DELICATESSEN (15). French video whizzkids Jeunet and Caro's wonderfully bizarre fantasy about a houseful of tenants living above a cannibalistic butcher. With Dominique Pinon, Marie-Laure Dougnac.
Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-636 6148) **Odeon Kensington** (0426 914666) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772).

THE DOUBLE LIFE OF VERONIQUE (15): Krzysztof Kieslowski's brilliantly filmed conundrum about two girls (one Polish, one French) who seem to share a life With Irène Jacob, Philippe Volter
Curzon Mayfair (071-465 8865)

FATHER OF THE BRIDE (PG) Daughter's impending wedding drives Steve Martin crazy Disappointing remake of the 1950 classic, for audiences who want to be spoon-fed. With Diane Keaton, director, Charles Shyer
MGM Chelsea (071-352 5096) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Marble Arch** (0426 914501) **West End** (0426 915574) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

FRANKIE AND JOHNNY (15). Short-order cook (Al Pacino) courts a wary waitress (Michelle Pfeiffer) Synthetic adaptation of Terrence McNally's play Director, Garry Marshall
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Empire** (071-497 9999) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

JFK (15) Oliver Stone's contentious, electrifying, three-hour drama about the Kennedy assassination. Kevin Costner as crusading D A Jim Garrison, a bustling supporting cast
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6279/379 7025) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Odeon Mezzanine** (0426 915683) **Plaza** (071-497 9999) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-935 2772) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332)

THE LAST BOY SCOUT (18) Bruce Willis as a world-weary detective embroiled in L A. corruption. Crowd-pleasing action movie, piled with bullets and jokes With Damon Wayans, director, Tony Scott
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **MGM Haymarket** (071-839 1527) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

THE MAN IN THE MOON (PG): Pangs of young love in rural Louisiana. Quiet, old-fashioned drama, honest deep down, though wet round the edges. With Sam Waterston, Tes Harper, Reese Witherspoon, Emily Warfield; director, Robert Mulligan.
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (071-836 6279/379 7025).

MISSISSIPPI MASALA (15): Indians displaced from Uganda to Mississippi fret over race and young love. Sharp insights, but soggy at the centre. Starring Sarita Choudhury, Denzel Washington. Director, Mira Nair.
Curzon West End (071-439 4805).

ONCE UPON A CRIME (PG): Vacuous comedy about Americans in Monte Carlo tumbling over a dachsund and a dead body. Starring John Candy, James Belushi, Sean Young, Richard Lewis, Cybill Shepherd; director, Eugene Levy.
Odeon West End (0426 915574)

THE PRINCE OF TIDES (15): New York psychiatrist helps football coach face family secrets. Romantic drama with ideas above its station, grandly acted by Nick Nolte. Barbra Streisand directs and co-stars, but fails to sing.
Barbican (071-638 8891) **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **MGM Baker Street** (071-935 9772) **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5096) **Notting Hill Coronet** (071-727 6705) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Leicester Square** (0426 915683) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

RAISE THE RED LANTERN (PG): Zhang Yimou's austere, quietly dazzling drama of a concubine's struggles in Twenties China. With Gong Li.
Chelsea (071-351 3742/3743) **Metro** (071-437 0757) **Renoir** (071-837 8402).

SHADOWS (18). Welcome revival of John Cassavetes's ground-breaking first feature (1959), a tapestry of New York bohemian life. Plus four other films in a two-week salute to the live-wire actor-director.
ICA (071-930 3647).

STAR TREK VI: THE UNDISCOVERED COUNTRY (PG): Farewell Kirk and Spock, battling galaxy war-mongers in their last screen adventure. Underwhelming, but adequate. With William Shatner, Leonard Nimoy, director, Nicholas Meyer.
MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2636) **Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

LES VALSEUSES (18): Gérard Depardieu and Patrick Dewaere in 1974, as two lads with idle hands. Timely revival of Bertrand Blier's ferocious, amoral, snook-cocking 1974 romp.
MGM Piccadilly (071-437 3561).

THEATRE

LONDON

ANNA KARENINA: Shared Experience's vibrantly physical version of Tolstoy's two love stories, giving, for a change, prominence to both.
Tricycle, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Opens Tues, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm.

CABAL AND LOVE: Theatre Manoeuvres continue their admirable exploration of neglected German drama: Schiller's 1784 tragedy of a society panting for revolution
Lyric Studio Theatre, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (081-741 2311) Opens Tues, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4.30pm.

THE COTTON CLUB: An impression of the Harlem nightspot: high on energy, low on story freshness.
Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2 (071-836 6404). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm.

DANCING AT LUGHNASA: Brian Friel's Olivier Award-winning memory-play, set in Thirties Donegal.
Garrick, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5085). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

DEATH AND THE MAIDEN: Juliet Stevenson, Michael Byrne, Bill Paterson superb in Ariel Dorfman's Chilean political drama. Best play of 1991
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-836 5122). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm

DOWN AND OUT IN PARIS AND LONDON: Pavnes Plough in association with Salisbury Playhouse in large-scale production of Orwell's grim account of poverty and homelessness
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, Hammersmith, W6 (081-534 0310) Preview Wed, 7 30pm. Opens Thurs, 7pm Then Mon-Sat, 7 30pm

GOIN' LOCAL: Tunde Ikoli's new comedy East End minicab drivers trying to make ends meet.
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, Stratford, E15 (081-534 0310) Opens Mon, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm

GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE: Satisfying musical celebrating Fifties and Sixties pop classics Great stuff.
Strand, Aldwych, WC2 (071-240 0300) Mon-Thurs, 8pm, Fri, Sat, 5.30pm and 8.30pm.

THE MADNESS OF GEORGE III: Nigel Hawthorne is very fine as a stricken king, but as a whole, Alan Bennett's play does not quite work
National (Lyttelton), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252) Tues-Thurs, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, 2.15pm. 170mins.

MAKING IT BETTER: James Saunders' subtle play concerned with ideals, reality and liberation in Prague and London; Jane Asher in an exemplary cast of four
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (071-722 9301). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm

ME AND MY GIRL: Cheerful, tuneful, "Lambeth Walk" musical, now in its umpteenth year.
Adelphi, Strand, WC2 (071-836 7611). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4.30pm.

THE RECRUITING OFFICER: Alex Jennings, Desmond Barrit, Sally Dexter swagger and scheme in Vanbrugh's vigorous comedy; Nicholas Hytner directs.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Previews tonight, Mon-Wed, 7.15pm. Opens Thurs, 7pm, Fri, 7.15pm.

SOME LIKE IT HOT: Jule Styne/Bob Merrill musical based on the film, with Tommy Steele directing himself in the Tony Curtis role.
Prince Edward, Old Compton Street, W1 (071-379 4444). Previews Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. Opens March 19.

STRAIGHT AND NARROW: Nicholas Lyndhurst and Carmel McSharry as son and doting mum in "family comedy" by Jimmie Chinn.
Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116). Previews from Tues, 8pm. Opens March 18, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

TALKING HEADS: Patricia Routledge and Alan Bennett excellent in three of his monologues charting the unconscious humour and pain of desolate lives.
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

UNCLE VANYA: Ian McKellen and Antony Sher outstanding in a Sean Mathias production that is subtle, balanced and tense with grief.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (071-928 2252). Wed-next Sat, 7.30pm, mat next Sat, 2.30pm.

THE WOMAN IN BLACK: This long-running and superior thriller by Stephen Mallatrat, based on Susan Hill's novel, has all the best ingredients: sea mist, strangely empty room, graveyard. Now with Milton John and Steven Mackintosh.
Fortune, Russell Street, WC2 (071-836 2238). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Tues, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

REGIONAL

EDINBURGH: Peter Ireland's gripping solo performance of *We*, Yevgeny Zamyatin's 1920 Science Fiction classic of life in a clinically controlled future.
Traverse, Grassmarket (031-226 2633). Tues-Sun, 8pm.

LIVERPOOL: Beryl Bainbridge's adaptation of her own novel, *An Awfully Big Adventure*, recalling her formative years working at the Playhouse in the Fifties.
Playhouse, Williamson Square (051-709 8478). Previews Wed, 7.30pm. Opens Thurs, 7.30pm. Then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 4pm.

SALISBURY: Toyah Willcox in Claire Luckham's new play, *The Choice*, about a woman whose baby will have Down's Syndrome. Directed by Annie Castledine.
Playhouse, Malthouse Lane, (0722 320333). Preview Wed, 7.45pm. Opens Thurs, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm.

WATFORD: *The Barber of Seville* but not Rossini's. Helena Bonham-Carter in Ranjit Bolt's translation of the original play, with Lee Cornes as Figaro. Lou Stein directs.
Palace, Clarendon Road (0923 225671). Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 3pm.

MUSIC

CLASSICAL

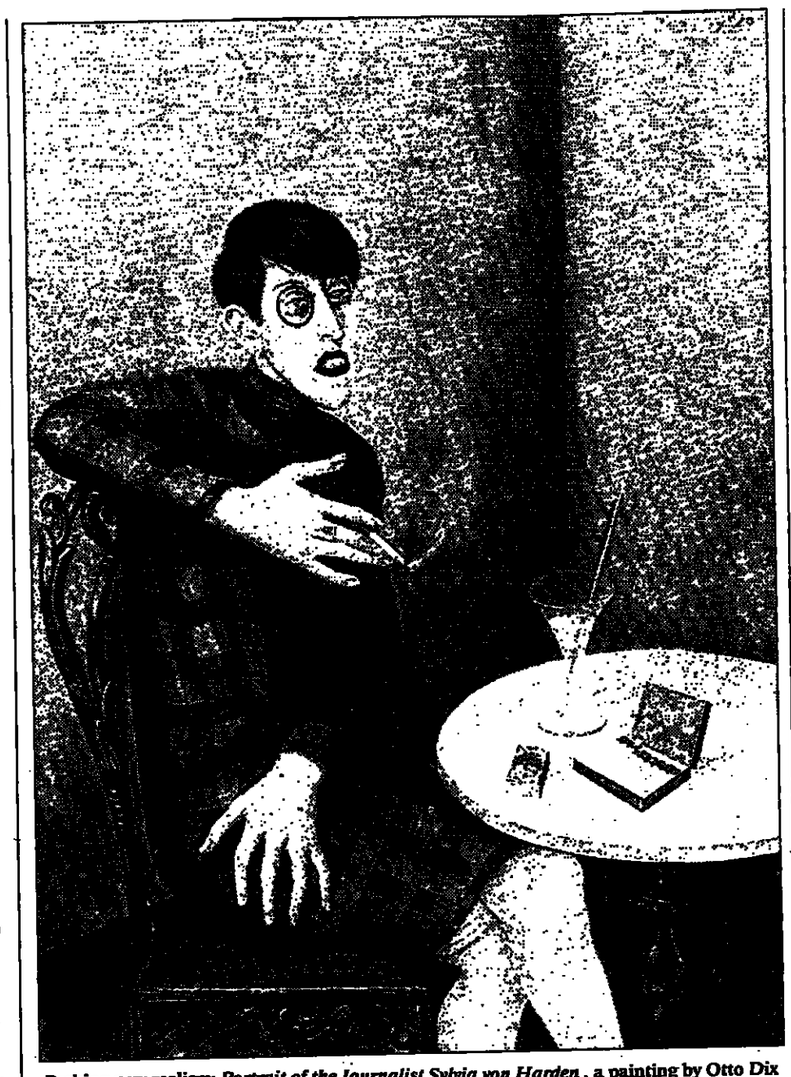
SCOTTISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA: The SCO, whose excellence as an ensemble is matched by its admirable commitment to community outreach projects, unveils the latest in Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's *Strathclyde Concertos* sequence. This one is the sixth, and the soloist is David Nicholson, the SCO's principal flautist. Davies himself conducts, and the programme is completed by Haydn's Symphonies Nos 1 and 104
City Hall, Glasgow (041-227 5511), Fri, 7.30pm.

GRAINGER FESTIVAL: In Blackheath an exploration starts of the music of Percy Grainger Martin Jones, who has recorded all of the Australian-American composer's piano music for Nimbus, gives the first of three recitals in the series.
Blackheath Concert Halls, Lee Road, London SE3 (081-463 0100/071-379 4444), tonight, 7.30pm

LES ARTS FLORISSANTS: The stylish Paris-based baroque ensemble comes to London to give a concert under the direction of William Christie of music by such luminaries as Bouzignac, Charpentier, Lambert and Moulinn. All proceeds go to Crusaid.
St John's, Smith Square, London SW1 (071-222 1061), Fri, 7 30pm.

ARRAU MEMORIAL: Two performances of Verdi's *Requiem* commemorate the pianist Claudio Arrau, who died last year. The London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus is joined by a highly distinguished cast of soloists and Sir Colin Davis conducts.
Barbican Centre, Silk Street, London EC2 (071-638 8891), tonight, 7 45pm and tomorrow, 7.30pm

MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL OF EXPRESSIONISM: Brigitte Fassbaender gives a recital of Schoenberg, Berg, Schreker and Mahler on Thurs at the Royal Northern College At the same time at the Free Trade Hall, the Hallé Orchestra and James Judd tackle Schoenberg's massive early symphonic poem *Pelleas und Melisande* (and Brahms's Violin Concerto with Viktoria Mullova as soloist). Clashes, happily, are avoided the following night, when the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra's programme, a recreation of the notorious Vienna "Skandalkonzert" of March 31, 1913, includes music by Webern (Six Pieces, Op 6), Zemlinsky (Maeterlinck Songs), Schoenberg (First Chamber Symphony), Berg (Altenberg Lieder) and Mahler (Kindertotenlieder).
Free Trade Hall, Manchester (061-834 1712), Thurs and Fri, 7.30pm. **Royal Northern College of Music**, Manchester (061-273 4504/5534), Thurs, 7.30pm.



Probing new realism: *Portrait of the Journalist Sylvia von Harden*, a painting by Otto Dix

OPERA



Marie Angel: Eurydice in the ENO's *Orfeo* at the Coliseum

ORFEO: First night this week for a revival of David Freeman's admired production of Monteverdi's *Orfeo*. Audiences in London will be able to see the other two surviving Monteverdi operas in productions by Freeman later in the year For this piece, Harry Bicket, ENO's Chorus Master, makes his debut in the pit, while Anthony Rolfe Johnson returns in the title role and Marie Angel sings Eurydice.
Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2 (071-836 3161, cc: 071-240 5258), Fri, 7.30pm

DEATH IN VENICE: Britten's final opera is treated to a new production by the experienced Colin Graham, who was also responsible for the very first production, at Aldeburgh in 1973 Steuart Bedford conducts (as at that Aldeburgh occasion), and the cast includes Philip Langridge as Aschenbach, Alan Opie as the Traveller and Michael Chance as the Voice of Apollo. John Piper's original designs are used for the projections.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066/1911), Tues and Fri, 7.30pm.

OPERA NORTH: The company brings its current repertoire of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly*, Mozart's *Don Giovanni*, Nielsen's *Masquerade* and Schreker's *Der ferne Klang* to Manchester this week, after a final performance in Stratford-upon-Avon tonight of the Nielsen.
Royal Shakespeare Theatre, Stratford-upon-Avon (0789 295623), tonight, 7.30pm.
Palace Theatre, Manchester (061-236 9922), Tues, Wed, Fri and next Sat, 7.15pm.

ROCK

SUGARCUBES: Heroes in their home country, these Icelandic mavericks offer punchy instrumentation pulled together by the beautiful, wheeling vocals of female singer, Björk.
Brixton Academy, London SW9 (071-326 1022), today, 6.30pm.
Barrowlands, Glasgow (041-552 4601), Mon, 7.30pm. **The Hummingbird**, Birmingham (021-236 4236), Wed, 7.30pm. **Academy**, Manchester (061-275 2930), Thurs, 7.30pm.

JAZZ

DUDLEY MOORE TRIO: Forget all those "dud" films, as a pianist Moore can still provide an entertaining evening, combining jazz and classical music with some genuinely funny, off-the-cuff humour. Next week the trio travels to Manchester's G-Mex, London's Albert Hall and Birmingham's NEC
Centre, Brighton (0273 202881), Thurs, 7pm.

THE BT JOHN HARLE BAND: The saxophonist and composer skilfully explores the music of Duke Ellington highlighting his contemplative side. After this Friday's opening date in Scotland, the band goes on tour ending up at London's Bloomsbury Theatre on March 22
Queens Hall, Edinburgh (031-668 2019), Fri, 8 30pm.

EVENINGS OUT

CAROLINE CHARLES
FASHION DESIGNER



"The play I'd like to see is *Pygmies in the Ruins* at the Royal Court. I've actually seen it already, but I'd like to see it again because it's another really thought-provoking Royal Court production. Written by Ron Hutchinson, an Irish playwright living in Los Angeles, the play tackles the difficult subject of the troubles in Ireland. It's a very meaty play. I would like to take my husband to the film *Cyrano de Bergerac*. I want him to enjoy it. I think everybody should see it twice or three times, it's so rich, witty and romantic. I'd like to see Truffaut's film, *Jules et Jim*, which is on at the Cannon Premiere, Leicester Square. It was magic in its day, and I'd like to see if it survives the 31 years since it was made. I'd also like to see the Ian Hamilton Finlay exhibition at the ICA. He is a sculptor cum poet, philosopher and gardener. I've seen lots of his stuff in people's gardens. He writes philosophical messages in stone."

EXHIBITIONS

OTTO DIX: The German painter is known in this country by a few paintings from his "critical realist" phase. This retrospective shows that he began with innocuous self-portraits, was shocked into Expressionist violence and Dada savagery by the first world war, and ended the Twenties as an adherent of the Neue Sachlichkeit (new objectivity), using probing realism to embody social criticisms. During the Nazi period he found refuge in religious painting and landscape. Afterwards he took on a cloudy sort of symbolism, and ended with unsparing portraits of the artist in old age. A thrilling odyssey which marks Dix as a significant figure in 20th-century art.
Tate Gallery, Millbank, London SW1 (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, opens Weds, until May 17.

ALEXANDER CALDER: The man who thought up the mobile could be accused of many things, including culpable insubstantiality, but lack of invention would hardly be one of them. To go to a Calder exhibition is to enter, willy-nilly, into his own happy world of bright primary colours and fluttering shapes ever on the move. For him life is a circus, often literally: in earlier years he made many drawings and wire sculptures on circus themes. Even his late "stabiles" are full of movement, frozen it seems just for the moment. Seldom has the Academy been so much fun.
Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071-439 7438). Daily, 10am-6pm, opens Fri. Until June 5.

EILEEN GRAY: Irish-born, Gray spent most of her working life in France; the painter Prunella Clough, who has helped organise the exhibition, is her niece. Gray's work in furniture and interior decoration received an enthusiastic welcome, chiming well with the Deco and Modernist trends of the time. When she took up architecture, though self taught, her first completed building was much admired by Le Corbusier, but she had difficulty breaking into the architectural profession, perhaps partly because she was a woman. The show demonstrates all aspects of her work, including plans for unbuilt buildings.
Design Museum, Butler's Wharf, London SE1 (071 403 6933). Tues-Sun, 11.30am-6.30pm, opens Tues. Until July 5.

LUCIE RIE: A retrospective celebrating the 90th birthday of an artist generally considered to be Britain's greatest living potter, Dame Lucie Rie. She was born in Vienna, and the earliest works were made there, reflecting influence from the Bauhaus Since she fled to England in 1938 she has worked consistently at refining and perfecting her severe and meticulous style, often virtually eschewing colours. Interestingly, however, some of her most recent pots are among the most colourful, indicating an intriguing change in direction
Crafts Council Gallery, 44a Pentonville Road, London N1 (071-278 7700). Tues-Sat, 11am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until April 5.

DOUBLETAKE: The general subject of this large international show is "Collective Memory and Current Art". Even the designer, Aldo Rossi, is renowned for his writings on collective memory in architecture, and the 22 artists included are all very conscious of living in and on the mass media's vast store of shared experiences. Works are inside the Hayward and scattered around in the open; the media are sometimes improbable.
Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (071-261 0127). Daily, 10am-6pm (Tues, Wed to 8pm). until April 19.

VAN GOGH IN ENGLAND: There is no great undiscovered English period in Van Gogh's painting to match the wonders of Brabant, Paris, Arles and St-Remy. However, the time he spent in England, 1873-76, was extremely important for his subsequent development, opening his eyes to the social realist work of illustrators and of painters such as Herkomer and Fildes, as well as Gustav Doré's grim views of contemporary London. This show fills in the background, with examples of the British art which fascinated the painter and ten important Van Gogh paintings.
Barbican Art Gallery, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 4141) Mon and Wed-Sat, 10am-6.45pm, Tues, 10am-5.45pm, Sun, midday-6 45pm, until May 4.

DANCE

GALANTERIES: To end its one-week season at the Hippodrome, Birmingham Royal Ballet presents the company premiere of David Bintley's Mozart ballet, first performed at Covent Garden in 1986. A plotless work with fluent and clever choreography, *Galanteries* should make a welcome addition to the company's repertoire The same triple bill also brings revivals of Galina Samsova's production of *Les Sylphides* and John Cranko's broadly comic *Card Game*
Hippodrome, Thorp Street, Birmingham (021-622 7486), today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

IN THE MIDDLE, SOMEWHAT ELEVATED: Tonight is the last chance to see William Forsythe's crashing, aggressive one-act ballet, recently acquired by Covent Garden. Its 35 minutes never let up with dancers throwing themselves into the athletic choreography. Love it or hate it, no one can deny that the Royal Ballet dancers perform it brilliantly.
Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2 (071-240 1066), tonight, 7.30pm.

COPPELIA: The Scottish Ballet presents the company premiere of Peter Wright's fine production, the first time the Glasgow company has ever performed *Coppelia*. Thursday's opening night cast is headed by principal ballerina Noriko Ohara.
Theatre Royal, Hope Street, Glasgow, (041-332 9000), Thur-next Sat, 7.15pm, mat next Sat, 2.15pm.

DEADLY SERIOUS: Adventures in Motion Pictures presents the world premiere of Matthew Bourne's latest work, a double-bill dancework inspired by the film career of the master of suspense, Alfred Hitchcock. Part One pays homage to Hitchcock's early black-and-white classics like *Rebecca*; in Part Two the later Technicolor masterworks such as *Vertigo* and *Rear Window* are featured. Opens on Tuesday.
Arnolfini, 16 Narrow Quay, Bristol (0272 299191), Tues-Sat, 8pm.

SALEROOMS

TODAY: Sportsmen may test their judgment — or the speed of their reactions — today. At 10am Tayler & Fletcher's Bourton-on-the-Water sale includes shotguns, sporting equipment and 35 cases of wine and port from local cellars, while near Bridgnorth, Nock Deighton have a sale of fishing tackle and books at 2pm following a specialist dealers' fair, which runs from 8am to 1.30pm.
Tayler & Fletcher, High Street, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucestershire (0451 20913).
Nock Deighton, The Sale Room Centre, Tasley, Bridgnorth, Shropshire (0746 762666).

SUNDAY: A collection of sealed wine bottles features with advertising material in BBR Auctions' sale at Wath upon Dearne, near Barnsley, at 10 30am
BBR Auctions, Elsecar Project, Wath Road, Elsecar, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (0226 745156).

TUESDAY: At 11am Bonhams' offer works from the studios of the illustrator animal painter and etcher George Soper (1870-1942) and his daughter, Eileen (1905-1990), who is best known for her illustrations to Enid Blyton and her badger watercolours.
Bonhams, Montpelier Street, London SW7 (071-584 9161).

WEDNESDAY: If you must blow your own trumpet, why not make it a silver bugle? A Victorian Volunteer bugle could make up to £1,500 in Bearne's sale of silver and jewels at Torquay, 10am In London Sotheby's modern British and Irish picture sale includes a delicious Max Beerbohm caricature watercolour of *Mr H.G. Wells Foreseeing Things* (up to £4,000).
Bearne's, Rainbow Avenue Road, Torquay (0803 296277).
Sotheby's, New Bond Street, London W1 (071-493 8080)

THURSDAY: Bloomsbury Book Auctions have a sale devoted to advertising posters including a good run of Shell examples from the Thirties, which could range between £100 and £1800 each. There are also railway, London Transport and wartime sections, and many of the great French poster designers are included. 1pm.
Bloomsbury Book Auctions, 3 and 4 Hardwick Street, London EC1 (071-833 2636).

FRIDAY: Christie's Victorian sale begins with drawings and watercolours and moves on to paintings, including Lord Leighton's charming portrait of Lady Sybil Primrose (up to £200,000). Extraordinarily, art historians regarded this as lost, not having thought to ask the sitter's descendants if they still had it.
Christie's, King Street, St James's, London SW1 (071-839 9060)

VIDEOS

DEUX OU TROIS CHOSES QUE JE SAIS D'ELLE (Connoisseur, 15) Jean-Luc Godard in fine infuriating form, with a breathless collage of images and thoughts, detailing 24 hours in the life of a Paris housewife and part-time prostitute (Marina Vlady) 1966

LOUIS MALLE (Palace Classics). Five features by the versatile French director come onto the market *Atlantic City* (1980), his best American film, plus the early thriller *Ascenseur pour l'échafaud* (1957). *Le Feu follet* (1963, a powerful study of mental disintegration). Jeanne Moreau kicking over the bourgeois traces in *Les Amants* (1958), and *Le Souffle au coeur* (1971), a delightful diversion about sex, incest, and growing up in the Fifties

NEW JACK CITY (Warner Video, 18). Flashy visual trappings cloak an old-hat plot about a drug baron's rise and fall With Wesley Snipes, rap singer Ice-T; directed by actor Mario Van Peebles A curious mix 1991

PROOF (Artificial Eye, 15) A blind man takes snaps to prove the existence of the world around him; but do they show what people say they do? Engrossing, unsentimental entertainment, laced with dark humour, from new Australian director Jocelyn Moorhouse. With Hugo Weaving, Genevieve Picot. 1991.



In the dark: Hugo Weaving and Genevieve Picot in *Proof*

BOOKINGS

A SLIP OF THE TONGUE: John Malkovich returns to the London stage in Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre Company production of a new Dusty Hughes play set in an unnamed European country. Malkovich plays exiled dissident writer Dominic Tantra, and the story follows his relationship with four female university students played by French actress Clotilde Courau, Lizzy McInnerny, American Kara Zediker and Lithuanian actress Ingeborga Dapkunaite.
Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, London (071-379 5399), previews from April 16, opens April 29.

WHITE OAK DANCE PROJECT: Mikhail Baryshnikov, who has not danced in Britain since 1985, is returning to London in April for the British premiere of this new project, created by the Russian classical dancer as a showpiece for contemporary American choreography. Baryshnikov and his company present works by Martha Clarke, David Gordon, Lar Lubovitch, Meredith Monk, Mark Morris, Martha Graham and Paul Taylor
Sadler's Wells, Rosebery Avenue, London EC1 (071-278 8916). April 2-12.



Mikhail Baryshnikov: the dancer returns to London

RANDY CRAWFORD: The American singer returns to London.
Empire, Sunderland (091-514 2517), April 5. **Guildhall**, Preston (0772 58858), 6. **Symphony Hall**, Birmingham (021-212 3333), 7 **Hexagon**, Reading (0734 591591), 9. **Leisure Centre**, Maidstone (0622 761111), 10 **Hammersmith Odeon**, London W6 (081-748 4081), 11 **Apollo**, Manchester (061-273 3775), 13. **Colston Hall**, Bristol (0272 223682), 14 **Corn Exchange**, Cambridge (0223 357851), 16. **Poole Arts Centre**, Poole (0202 685222), 17. **Pavilion**, Plymouth (0752 229922), 18

THE HIGHWAYMEN: British debut for a four-piece comprising Country music pioneers Johnny Cash, Willie Nelson, Waylon Jennings and Kris Kristofferson
Wembley Arena, Wembley (081-900 1234), April 10. **NEC Arena**, Birmingham (021-780 4133), 11. **Sheffield Arena**, Sheffield (0602 483456, 0742 754774, 0532 442999, 12

Film: Geoff Brown; **Theatre:** Jeremy Kingston; **Classical Music and Opera:** Stephen Pettitt; **Rock and Jazz:** Stephanie Osborne; **Dance:** Debra Craine; **Exhibitions:** John Russell Taylor; **Videos:** Geoff Brown; **Bookings:** Kan Knight, **Salerooms:** Huon Mallalieu

VAN GOGH IN ENGLAND
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Life inside's nothing to crow about



Lynne Truss discovers that a hard-hitting prison drama can be every bit as realistic as the grimmest television documentary

REVIEW

An interesting dilemma has arisen for the producers of *EastEnders*. The dastardly Nick Cotton, who is awaiting trial for the murder of — er, what's his name? Eddie something — has been transferred to a prison called Dickens Hill. His poor mum (Dot) has been actively worrying, and pointedly thinking aloud, about how she will manage to visit him, since the journey is tricky by public transport. All this has caused the viewer, in turn, to worry about whether anybody would care very much if Nick Cotton were swallowed up by the malevolent prison system, and never heard of again.

The dilemma, as I see it, is whether *EastEnders* goes to the enormous expense of building a whole new complex of Dickens Hill sets (cells, walkways, kitchens, showers) and of hiring loads of actors in grey and blue woollies; or whether it says to itself: "Look, every television viewer knows by now precisely what prison looks like, feels like and smells like. How about we spend the money on finishing Pauline's kitchen instead? The viewers will thank us more, in the long run."

I mention this because watching this week's instalment of the prison-thriller *Underbelly* (Monday, BBC2), I suddenly noticed a chink in its formidable armour. This small but perfectly formed property tycoon Stephen Crowe (David Hayman) is very believable. Yet there is one tiny flaw. Somehow he has managed to miss all the current affairs programmes that might have prepared him for life on the inside. What has he been doing on Monday evenings, when *World in Action* was on? Perhaps Monday was his regular dodgy-property-deal night with the guys. But ignorance is dangerous, when you are on the inside. And this poor sap Crowe didn't even know to grab the upper bunk (which means he must have been making dodgy property deals since the mid-1970s because he clearly missed *Porridge*, too).

What sheltered lives these property tycoons have. And what honorary lags we regular telly viewers are — so familiar with the grisly details of slopping-out that it actually comes as rather a surprise to stop and think that none of it is first-hand knowledge. Even BBC1's *The Clothes Show*, for heaven's sake, went into a prison last Sunday (although admittedly it showed Holloway less from a Woolf Report perspective than a — well, a fancy knitwear one, actually). Perhaps Crowe ignored all the documentaries because he thought rich people were sent to nice open prisons, where they chose between brushing up on their crochet and polishing their fingernails (in preparation for shaking hands with the Queen Mother). How wrong he was, then.

The great and lovely surprise about *Underbelly*, on the other hand, was that it is not a "You're not telling me . . . ?" drama — which is the sort of scriptwriting that *gets my goat*. Characters in *Underbelly* by and large resist the delights of sitting around telling one another how shocking and corrupt the system is and shaking their heads in disbelief. *"You're not telling me* that these prisoners are locked in their cells for 20 hours a day? *Are you saying* that the dealing of drugs is condoned by the authorities? *You don't honestly expect me to believe . . ?"* And so on.

Last year's *For the Greater Good* (which, like *Underbelly*, was a thriller concerned with high-level politics and the prisons) was stiff with such you're-not-telling-me's, with Martin Shaw as a naïve MP bombarded with so much eye-opening, shock-horror stuff that he was often on the verge of tears. Peter Ransley's scripts for *Underbelly* handle information rather more delicately. Instead of presenting the viewer with great undigested gobs of information, Ransley has hit on the idea of dramatising it instead. Thus, when the inevitable "Prisons are a powder-keg" speech is made, it is delivered by the Minister for Prisons (Tom Wilkinson) to his Home Secretary — and the audience knows perfectly all his slimy self-seeking reasons for making it.

So what have we got here? We've got a good story — about power, powerlessness and the implicit fear and violence that bind the two together. Stephen Crowe was a property developer addicted to "deals" and accustomed to power; the sort of chap who opens new shopping complexes with a whizz-bang fireworks display, and stages fantastic garden parties while standing trial. He is a man who *makes things happen*. His old politician chum Paul Manning (the Minister for Prisons) is, by contrast, not thrilled by power at all; he is just weighed down by fears of losing his job, resentful at the burden of his responsibility, and damned if he's going to lose the £80,000 he has foolishly invested in Crowe's company.

Fall from power is, of course, one of the essential ingredients of classical tragedy (or so Aristotle said); and while Crowe is not quite Oedipus or King Lear, his experience of landing bum-first in choky is pretty alarming to watch. One suspects he did not attend an English public school, since this is supposed to make prison feel quite comfy and familiar. Anyway, there is no more vivid illustration of utter humiliating powerlessness than to be dragged screaming back to prison (as Crowe was, at the end of the last episode) when your freckle-faced child is about to undergo life-endangering surgery.

His wife Jude (Christine Kavanagh) watched in horror as Crowe struggled and wailed in the hospital corridor. He had just been telling her how to save his company by unethical means; and she had noticed that his rather unpleasant underbelly was showing.

From the moment the series started, too, you knew you were in safe hands. As it confidently struck off with two parallel stories — the prison riot at Friar's Hill and the fall of the house of Crowe — you felt sure that it knew precisely what it was doing. The intercutting of scenes was brisk and clever (the Ooohs and Aaahs at the fireworks display, for example, switching to the screams of terror of a remand-prisoner juddering with fright on the Friar's Hill roof). The electric guitar soundtrack was menacing. The filming was expensive. And the acting was perfect. One didn't know whether to say Oooh and Aaah, or to shout for help.

Having seen *Public Eye*'s recent reports about Brixton Prison, I was struck by one particular feature of *Underbelly*. In the Brixton film, one of the prison's few convicted felons was shown being bundled into a segregation unit, after an "altercation" when his cell was searched. He was protesting loudly. "But you know what I'm like, guv'nor! You know what I'm like!" I suppose it is always the basis of prison drama that locked-up prisoners are a doddle to provoke and that they wear their blue touch-papers with such prominence that the screws can hardly help treating every day as Guy Fawkes. In *For the Greater Good*, I seem to remember that sadistic screws were actually injecting their favourite prisoners with HIV — which is enough to make *anybody* wild, when you think of it.

But in *Underbelly* the screws are more concerned to keep the tin lid on it, because they are not all stupid. And I like it better. They steer clear of psychopaths such as Harry West, and pray daily that he gets his hoped-for "funeral visit", because otherwise he will go berserk. This rings true, doesn't it? Why should they want to draw heat on themselves? In the end, West exploded in episode two because a snivelling weakling called Terry tricked him into it. It made a lot more sense (and was much better drama) than a screw shouting "Nah-Nah" at him through the bars.



Choked in choky, from left: Edward Peel, David Hayman, Tom Wilkinson and Christine Kavanagh in *Underbelly*, BBC2 on Monday

PREVIEW

● **Screen Two: Common Pursuit**
(tomorrow, BBC2, 10pm)
They call it the Play That Will Not Die. Simon Gray's original stage version was first performed in 1984. Now — with a revival and two "production diaries" having kept its memory green — here it is on the telly, with Stephen Fry leading its best cast to date, lots of guaranteed laughs, and Christopher Morahan directing.

The play concerns a handful of Leavisite undergraduates at Cambridge (five men and one woman), who launch a literary magazine and then squander their ideals in a variety of amusing ways over the next nine years. Gray is unafraid to twiddle with the original play: the time span used to be 17 years, and he has made one of the chums American. No doubt Humphrey (Fry) will still have the best lines, such as: "Merely because you can't speak properly doesn't mean I can't understand you. Generally well before you are finished." Quintessential Gray, that.

But I doubt much could be done about Marigold (Stella Gonet), the group's lone woman. In Gray's stage plays, women have a specific dramatic function: to drop bombshells (usually "I'm having an affair", "I'm having a baby", or "I'm leaving you for someone else"). If memory serves, Marigold's only good fortune is that she manages to drop all three bombs at once.

● **The Last Cigarette**
(tomorrow, ITV, 10.35pm)
Having long ago realised that the only proven way to stop people from smoking is to pour buckets of water over them, I am a little sceptical about this strange project, but nevertheless wish it well. Danny Baker and Paula Yates set out to josh people out of smoking, by giving the impression that giving up smoking is *fun*. Guests include Cliff Richard and Rory Bremner; and I have a feeling that the viewers will be expected to phone up later and say, "Hallelujah! I've packed it in!" The show's premise is that most smokers *want* to give up. I wonder.

● **40 Minutes: Many Happy Returns!**
(Tuesday, BBC2, 9.50pm)
Some of us will have a weird sensation that we have seen this programme before, but this says more about scheduling policy than about reincarnation. Nevertheless, the stories featured are intriguing: two children with such vivid memories of their previous lives that they keep calling their family by different names, and asking for pets that do not exist. What enlightened parents these kiddies must have. Instead of clipping them around the ear and telling them to concentrate, they set out to find whether the former lives have any historical basis.

L.T.

Surviving academe

Channel 4 turns the spotlight on the Princess Royal's old stamping ground

More often than not a boarding school education has to be endured rather than enjoyed. Half the pleasure lies in talking about it afterwards. Channel 4's documentary *Cutting Edge: Benenden* (Monday, 9pm) follows 12-year-old Marianne (sic) and 11-year-old Kirstie Dowse as they start at the Princess Royal's *alma mater*.

Schools have long been a stamping ground of film-makers. As enclosed communities they provide a ready-made location and a wealth of captive subjects; all the macro and microcosmic implications a sociologist could ever dream of analysing.

The groves of academe have become accustomed to arc light and steadicam. Few programmes, though, have had such a splendid setting as Benenden's 250 acres of unspoilt Kent countryside.

Kathy O'Neill's school report is punctuated with shots of sunny lacrosse pitches, misty meadows and silhouetted oaks. It covers the 1991 autumn term, when the parents of 415 girls aged between 11 and 18 were each spending £3,333.33 on their daughters.

Once the new pupils have arrived, and the Range Rovers have disgorged their trunks and tuck boxes, the headmistress, Gillian Ducharme, gently and cunningly separates mother and father from daughter.

In the pep talk she gives to the children she promises: "We will not believe everything we hear about you if you do not believe everything you hear about us." Laughter is clearly important to her, and the school derives its friendly atmosphere from its leader. "It takes about 22 muscles to frown and only 16 muscles to smile."

O'Neill, the producer/director of *Benenden*, and a veteran of *Panorama* and *Newsnight*, says: "Male public schools have an element of viciousness. Female public schools are different. Whereas boys' schools can seem institutionalised, girls' schools are more personalised. I liked the idea of making a film about a community of women.

"Of course, girls fall out and can be bitchy, but they sit around and talk a lot more. They share a joy in being girls together." This is demonstrated by a sequence in which a group of teenagers romp round a dorm singing "I will survive" along with Gloria Gaynor on the stereo.

Friendship manifests itself in two particular — and peculiar — ways at Benenden. "Crushing" involves the swapping of gifts between younger and older girls. "Cracking" involves much the same thing except that the younger girl also changes the sheets on the older girl's bed once a week. Kirstie, somewhat bemusedly, tells the film crew: "Some of my friends have cracked on three people, so they have to make four beds on a Sunday."



Smiling through: Benenden girls are given laughter lessons

"At the end of the summer term the girls would dump all their mattresses on the floor and sleep together in one big lump. Midnight feasts were forbidden but they would have one that night," says Sarah Wilkinson, who taught Classics at the school before leaving in 1989 to pursue a legal career.

As the girls continue to work hard and play hard it transpires that, in spite of the cheerful camaraderie, homesickness lurks. Was O'Neill not worried that the filming would only serve to increase the ordeal?

"Very much so, but in the event it actually gave Kirstie more confidence. The fact that she knew we would be coming back at various times gave her a sense of security. I think it helped her to make friends as well," she says.

Similarly, clay-pigeon shooting and cycling are no substitute for freedom.

Claustrophobia is a further problem. To begin with, O'Neill stayed on the school premises. "After a few days I did want to get out, but there was nowhere to go. The closed community was a little too closed," she says.

"I was used to a city life," Ms Wilkinson says, "and Benenden can seem very quiet. Although as an assistant housemistress I had a separate attic flat, my boyfriend was not allowed to visit during term time when the girls were in residence."

Is such seclusion a suitable preparation for the outside world? "Yes," Ms Wilkinson says. "The girls have a remarkable social life during the holidays. Some of them were sorry for me because I had not been to boarding school. They are far more grown up than I was at their age."

It is ironic that a system of education designed to instil responsibility depends on parents shifting the responsibility for their children on to total strangers. Would she send her own daughters to Benenden? "Certainly," Ms Wilkinson says.

"I'm not sure," says O'Neill. "I'm impressed by the way the girls turn out, but at a boarding school you have to put up a wall to protect yourself, otherwise it's impossible to survive. Some recover from this better than others. It's not like being at home with your mum."

MARK SANDERSON



GUILTY SECRETS: JEAN ALEXANDER

"I'm addicted to all the whodunits: The Ruth Rendell mysteries and those by P.D. James, and I love Miss Marple and Hercule Poirot. In my youth I was addicted to anything by Agatha Christie. I worked in a library in Liverpool and that may have had something to do with it. I read a lot of other things as well, but I always read the whodunits first. I like watching murder mysteries because they are done so well on television, with just the right sense of period, and the characters are right off the page, particularly in the case of Miss Marple, played by Joan Hickson."

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ADELPHI 071 836 7611 CC 071 379 4444/792 1000 First Call 24hr cc 071 497 9977 (no bkg fee) Group 071 930 6123
NOW BOOKING TO 25 JULY
ME AND MY GIRL
THE LAMBETH WALK MUSICAL
Nightly at 7.30 Mats Wed at 2.30 & Sat 4.30 & 8.00
"THE HAPPIEST SHOW IN TOWN" Sunday Express

ALBERY 071 867 1115 cc 867 1111/379 4444/497 9977 no bkg fee Groups 930 6123
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LONDON'S HOT NEW HIT!
"A sizzling, buoyant, swanky show" Sunday Times
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APOLLO Box Office/CC/Grps 071 494 5070 CC 379 4444 (no bkg fee)/836 2428 (Bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123
SIMON WARD **JOHN QUAYLE**
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ELIZABETH BELL **ERIKA HOFFMAN**
IN LONDON'S LAUGHTER HIT
DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER
"BREATHTAKING FARCE... near faultless piece of theatrical invention" Gdn
"A SAUCY COMEDY" E Standard
Mon-Fri 8pm. Wed mat 3pm Sat 5pm & 8.30

APOLLO VICTORIA SS 071 828 8665 cc 630 6262 Grp 828 6188 cc 24hr 379 4444/497 9977 071 793 1000 Group 930 6123
Seen by over 4 million people in over 3,000 performances
STARLIGHT EXPRESS
Music by ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER
Lyrics by RICHARD STILGOE
Directed by TREVOR NUNN
Seats Avail For Mar Perfs Now
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1990's OLIVIER AWARD WINNER BEST MUSICAL
RETURN TO THE
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Mon-Th 8 Fri/Sat 6 & 8.30 Sun 5
3rd YEAR IN ORBIT

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PATRICIA ROUTLEDGE **ALAN BENNETT**
TALKING HEADS
Written & Directed by ALAN BENNETT
"One of the funniest and most moving evenings in the London theatre" D Tel
Eves 8pm Mats Wed 3 Sat 4pm
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LAST 4 WKS. MUST END MAR 28

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Opening Tue 16th June 7pm
Previews from Sat 6th June
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DIRECT FROM BROADWAY AND INTERNATIONAL TOUR WITH FULL U.S.A. COMPANY
GRAND HOTEL
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Only 2 more perfs - ENDS TODAY
ALLO ALLO
with the TV Stars
TODAY 5.30pm & 8.30pm

DRURY LANE THEATRE ROYAL cc (Bkg fee) 24hr 7 days 071 494 5060/379 4444/240 7200/793 1000 Groups 494 5454
MISS SAIGON
"MUSICALS COME AND GO THIS ONE WILL STAY" S Times
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3pm
GOOD SEATS AVAIL FOR WED MAT & SOME PERFORMANCES. APPLY TO BOX OFFICE
NOW BOOKING UNTIL 26 SEPT FOR TELEPHONE POSTAL BOOKINGS/PERSONAL CALLERS 071 494 5080 BKG FEE

DUCHESS BO/CC (24hrs/no bkg fee) 494 6075/379 4444 (with bkg fee/497 9977
"EASILY THE FUNNIEST PLAY IN THE WEST END" D Express
AN EVENING WITH GARY LINEKER
by Arthur Smith & Chris England
"BRILLIANTLY WITTY" D Mirror
"LETHALLY FUNNY" S Times
"A STRIKING SUCCESS" Gdn
Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat 6 & 8.45
NOW BOOKING UNTIL SEPT

DUKE OF YORK'S Box Off 071 836 5122 cc 071 836 9837 bkg fee 071-497 9977/379 4444
The Royal Court Theatre Prod.
JULIET STEVENSON
BILL PATERSON in **MICHAEL BYRNE**
DEATH & THE MAIDEN
by Ariel Dorfman
"Best Play 1991" Times
Eves 8. Thurs Mat 3 Sat Mat 4

FORTUNE BO & CC 071 836 2238 CC 071 497 9977 (24hr /bkg fee) 071 793 1000 (bkg fee)
Susan Hill's
THE WOMAN IN BLACK
Adapted by Stephen Mallatratt
"A BRILLIANTLY EFFECTIVE SPINE CHILLER" Guardian
"A REAL THRILL" S Times
"Take tranquillisers" I. Out
Mon-Sat 8pm Mats Tue 3 Sat 4
NOW BOOKING UNTIL SEPT 5
No Perfs Apr 20 & May 4, 25

GARRICK BO/CC 494 5085 /379 4444/497 9977/793 1000
BEST PLAY
ALL 4 MAJOR AWARDS 91
DANCING at LUGHNASA
"Poignant, hilarious & spell-binding" Sunday Times
Mon-Sat 8 Mats Thur 3 Sat 4

GLOBE BO & CC (24hrs/no bkg fee) 071 494 5065/379 4444 Also 497 9977 (bkg fee) Groups 930 6123
DUKE ELLINGTON'S
SOPHISTICATED LADIES
"IRRESISTIBLE" D Telegraph
"HIGH OCTANE ZEST" D Mail
Mon-Fri 8 Sat 5 & 8.30 Wed mat 3pm
SEASON ENDS 28 MARCH

GREENWICH THEATRE 081 858 7755 Eves 7.45 Sat mats 2.30 **CAESAR & CLEOPATRA** by Bernard Shaw with **Alec McCowen & Amanda Root** "Superbly Played" Mail on Sun

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL 071 930 8800 (no bkg fee) cc 071 497 9977/071 379 4444/071 793 1000 (bkg fee)
PAUL SCOFIELD **VANESSA REDGRAVE**
FELICITY KENDAL **DANIEL MASSEY**
HEARTBREAK HOUSE
by Bernard Shaw
Dir by TREVOR NUNN
PREVIEWS FROM MARCH 12
OPENS MARCH 19

HAYMARKET THEATRE ROYAL BO inc CC 071 930 8800 First Call 071 497 9977 (45p nominal handling charge)
DEREK JACOBI **ROBERT LINDSAY**
BECKET
by Jean Anouilh
directed by Elijah Moshinsky
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 3.00
SOLD OUT - APPLY BO FOR RETURNS. MUST END TODAY

HER MAJESTY'S 24hr 494 5400 (bkg fee) CC 379 4444/497 9977 (bkg fee) Group Sales 930 6123
ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER'S
AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Directed by HAROLD PRINCE
Eves 7.45 Mats Wed & Sat 3
SOLD OUT UNTIL SEPT 26
Some booking period returns nightly. Apply to Box Office daily for returns

LON. PALLADIUM 24hr Bkg CC 071 494 5020/379 4444 Grps 494 5454 (24hr bkg fee)/497 9977/793 1000
Andrew Lloyd Webber's "exuberant new production" Std of "Tim Rice & Andrew Lloyd Webber's Palladium Blockbuster" Gdn
JOSEPH & THE AMAZING TECHNICOLOR DREAMCOAT
Starring JASON DONOVAN
Dir by STEVEN PIMLOTT
Eves 7.30 Mats Wed & Sat 2.30
NOW BOOKING TO OCT 1992

LYRIC, Shafts Ave Bo & cc 071 494 5045 cc 379 4444 All (el lines 24hr/7 days (bkg fee) cc 497 9977 Grps 071 930 6123
The Joint Never Stops Jumpin
FIVE GUYS NAMED MOE
THE OLIVIER AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
Mon-Thu 8 Fri & Sat at 6 & 8.45
NOW BOOKING TO 25 APRIL
APPLY DAILY FOR RETURNS AND CANCELLATIONS

NATIONAL THEATRE BO 071 928 2252 Grps 071 620 0741 24hr cc bkg fee 071 497 9977
OLIVIER
Today & Mon 7.15 (PREVIEWS) **THE RECRUITING OFFICER** by Farquhar
LYTTLETON
Today 2.15 & 7.30 Mon 7.30 **THE NIGHT OF THE IGUANA** by Tennessee Williams
COTTESLOE
Today 2.30 & 7.30 (LAST PERFS) **THE LITTLE CLAY CART** attributed to Shudraka adapted by Viraraj, Mon 7.30 **ANGELS IN AMERICA** by Kushner

NEW LONDON Drury Lane BO 071 405 0072 CC 071 404 4079 24hr 379 4444 Grps 930 6123
Eves from Pickfords Travel
THE ANDREW LLOYD WEBBER-TS ELIOT INTERNATIONAL AWARD WINNING MUSICAL
CATS
Eves 7.45 Mats Tue & Sat 3.00
LATECOMERS NOT ADMITTED WHILE AUDITORIUM IS IN MOTION. PLEASE BE PROMPT
Bars open at 6.45
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

OLD VIC 071 928 7616 cc 071 379 4444 (no bkg fee)/071 793 1000/071 497 9977 (bkg fee)
Eves 7.45 Wed & Sat Mats 3 pm
PHONES OPEN 24hrs/7 days
NOW BOOKING TO 25th JULY
OSCAR HAMMERSTEIN II'S
CARMEN JONES
Music by Bizet
Directed by Simon Callow
WINNER BEST MUSICAL
Standard Awards 1991

PALACE THEATRE 071 434 0909 cc 24hrs (bkg fee) 071 379 4444/497 9977/793 1000 Group Sales 071 930 6123 Groups 071 494 1671
THE WORLD'S MOST POPULAR MUSICAL
LES MISERABLES
Eves 7.30 Mats Thu & Sat 2.30
Latecomers not admitted until the interval
NOW BOOKING THRU SEPT
LIMITED NO. OF SEATS AVAIL. DAILY FROM BOX OFFICE

PHOENIX BO & cc 867 1044 cc 867 1111/397 4444/793 1000 (bkg) 497 9977
BEST MUSICAL
Olivier/Ivor Novello Awards
WILLY RUSSELL'S
BLOOD BROTHERS
"ASTONISHING" S Express
"...Brings the audience to its feet, and roaring its approval" D Mail
Eves 7.45 Mats Thurs 3 Sat 4

PICCADILLY BO 071 867 1118/071 867 1111/071 379 4444/071 497 9977 (all 24hr/no bkg fee) Groups 071 930 6123
MOBY DICK
A WHALE OF A TALE
The New Musical Comedy
NOW PREVIEWING
OPENS MARCH 17 AT 8.00
Mon-Sat 8 Mats Tue & Sat 4
The mats from 24 March

PLAYHOUSE THEATRE Box off & cc 071 839 4401 cc 497 9977 (No bkg fee)/cc 071 379 4444
From Wed 18 March
THE SMASH HIT MUSICAL
GOOD ROCKIN' TONITE!
The best rock 'n' roll show in town
Eves Mon-Thur 8.00
Fri & Sat 5.30 & 8.30
MI GROUP PLAYHOUSE

QUEENS 071 494 5040/497 9977/379 4444 (all 24hrs/no bkg fee)
FROM THE CREATORS OF IPI TOMBI COMES THE NEW AFRICAN SONG & DANCE SENSATION
SIKULU
Performances begin 7 April

ROYAL COURT 071 730 1745 cc 071 836 2428 **PYGMIES IN THE RUINS** by Ron Hutchinson Eves 8pm Sat Mat 4pm

ST MARTIN'S 071 836 1443 Special CC No 379 4444 Eves 8.0 Tues 2.45 Sat 5.0 and 8.0 40th Year of Agatha Christie's THE MOUSETRAP

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the BARBICAN
Box Office/CC 071-638 8891

SUNDAY 22 MARCH at 7.30 pm
TCHAIKOVSKY GALA NIGHT
Romeo & Juliet Fantasy Ov. • Piano Conc. No.1
Swan Lake Suite • Sleeping Beauty Waltz
1812 Overture (with cannon & mortar effects)
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
FRASER GOULDING conductor
MALCOLM BINNS piano
BAND OF THE LIFE GUARDS
£8.50, £12.50, £16.50, £18.50, £21

SUNDAY 12 APRIL at 7.30 pm
GOLDEN GERSHWIN
Strike up the Band
An American in Paris
Rhapsody in Blue
Variations on 'I Got Rhythm'
Porgy & Bess Symphonic Picture
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
HARRY RABINOWITZ cond. PHILIP FOWKE piano
£8.50, £12.50, £16.50, £18.50, £21

SUNDAY 19 APRIL at 7.30 pm
THE GLORY OF EASTER
HANDEL Arrival of the Queen of Sheba: Let the Bright Seraphim *(Samson)*: I know that My Redeemer Liveth *(Messiah)*: Water Music Suite; BACH Sinfonia *(Easter Oratorio)*; Suite No.1 in C; Sleepers Awake *(excerpts)*; MOZART Alleluia from Exsultate Jubilate; ALBINONI Adagio; FRANCK Panis Angelicus; CLARKE Trumpet Voluntary; PURCELL Trumpet Tune and Air; PACHELBEL Canon; GOUNOD Ave Maria; BIZET Agnus Dei
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA PHILIP SIMMS conductor
CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS trumpet EIRIAN DAVIES soprano
£7.50, £10.50, £13.50, £16.50, £18.50

FRIDAY 24 APRIL at 8 pm
OPERA GALA NIGHT
An Introduction to Opera
MOZART Overture, Non Più Andrai *(Marriage of Figaro)*; The Priests Chorus *(The Magic Flute)*; Il mio tesoro, La ci Darem *(Don Giovanni)*; BIZET Duet *(The Pearl Fishers)*: Toreador's Song & Habanera *(Carmen)*
PUCCINI One Fine Day *(Madame Butterfly)*; Your tiny hand is frozen *(La Bohème)*
VERDI Brindisi *(La Traviata)*; Caro Nome & Questa o Quella *(Rigoletto)*; Grand March *(Aida)*
PAUL WYNNE GRIFFITHS conductor
LONDON CONCERT CHOIR
SUSAN BULLOCK soprano
BONAVENTURA BOTTONE tenor
STEVEN PAGE baritone
£7.50, £10.50, £13.50, £16.50, £18.50

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
Box Office/CC 071-928 8800

TOMORROW at 7.30 pm
GREAT CLASSICS
TCHAIKOVSKY .... Capriccio Italien
RACHMANINOV ... Piano Concerto No.2
BIZET .... Suite from Carmen
J. STRAUSS II .... Blue Danube Waltz
RAVEL .... Bolero
LONDON CONCERT ORCHESTRA
FRASER GOULDING conductor JAMES LISNEY piano
£6.50, £8.50, £11.50, £15, £17, £19, £21

SUNDAY 5 APRIL at 7.30 pm
BAROQUE MASTERPIECES
HANDEL Music for the Royal Fireworks
PACHELBEL Canon ALBINONI Adagio
VIVALDI Concerto for two trumpets
MOZART Piano Conc No.23 K488; Sym No.40
MOZART FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA
PHILIP SIMMS cond LUCY PARHAM pno
CRISPIAN STEELE-PERKINS & MICHAEL MEEKS tpts
£6.50, £8.50, £11.50, £15, £17, £19, £21

SUNDAY 19 APRIL at 7.30 pm
THE FOUR SEASONS
HANDEL .....Arrival of the Queen of Sheba
MOZART .... Eine kleine Nachtmusik
MOZART .... Piano Concerto in C, K467
VIVALDI .... The Four Seasons
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
IAN WATSON conductor
JOSÉ-LUIS GARCIA vln SARAH BRIGGS pno
£6.50, £8.50, £11.50, £15, £17, £19, £21

THE PHILHARMONIA
Royal Festival Hall
Box Office/CC 071-928 8800

SUNDAY 15 MARCH at 3.15pm
PAUL FREEMAN Conductor
DEREK HAN Piano
JOHN ANDERSON Oboe
SCHUBERT Unfinished Symphony
MOZART Piano Concerto No.21, K467
MARTINU Conc. for oboe & small orchestra
KODALY Dances from Galanta
£4, £8, £10, £12, £15, £18
Sponsored by AFG

TUESDAY 24 MARCH at 7.30pm
CLAUS PETER FLOR Conductor
JOHN WALLACE Trumpet
HAYDN Three English Military Marches
HAYDN Symphony No.8 'Le Soir'
HUMMEL Trumpet Concerto
HUMMEL/WALLACE Indian Rondo
BEETHOVEN Symphony No.7
£4, £8, £12, £15, £20, £25
Sponsored by NCR Limited

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents at the BARBICAN

SATURDAY NEXT 14 MARCH at 7.45
GREAT CLASSICS
LONDON FESTIVAL ORCHESTRA
Conductor: *ROSS POPLE* Piano: *MARTIN JONES*
MOZART .... Ov. 'THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO'
MOZART .... EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK
GRIEG .... PIANO CONCERTO
SCHUBERT .... SYMPHONY No 8 'UNFINISHED'
TCHAIKOVSKY .... SUITE 'THE NUTCRACKER'
£7.50 £10.50 £12.50 £15.50 £18.50 071 638 8891

FRIDAY 3 APRIL at 7.45
in association with NSO
POPULAR CLASSICS
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
Conductor: *TOLGA KASHIF* Violin: *ERICH GRUENBERG*
ROSSINI .... OVERTURE, WILLIAM TELL
STRAUSS .... THE BLUE DANUBE
BRUCH .... VIOLIN CONCERTO No 1
BIZET .... CARMEN SUITE
ELGAR .... POMP & CIRCUMSTANCE No 1
GRIEG .... PEER GYNT SUITE
RAVEL .... BOLERO
£8.50 £12.00 £15.00 £17.50 £20.00 071 638 8891

FRIDAY 10 APRIL at 7.45
In association with CLS
THE FOUR SEASONS
CITY OF LONDON SINFONIA Director: *IAN WATSON*
Piano: *PHILIP MARTIN* Violin: *NICHOLAS WARD*
HANDEL .... MUSIC FOR THE ROYAL FIREWORKS
MOZART .... EINE KLEINE NACHTMUSIK
MOZART .... PIANO CONCERTO No.21 IN C
VIVALDI .... THE FOUR SEASONS
£8.50 £12.00 £15.00 £17.50 £20.00 071 638 8891

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

SATURDAY NEXT 14 MARCH at 7.30
VERDI & PUCCINI GALA OPERA NIGHT
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PRO MUSICA CHORUS LONDON CHORALE
FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE ROYAL ARTILLERY
Cond: *DAVID COLEMAN* Sop: *SUSAN BULLOCK*
Tenor: *BRUCE RANKIN* Baritone: *MICHAEL DE COSTA*
Overture **THE FORCE OF DESTINY,**
Musetta's Waltz, Che gelida manina, O Mimi **LA BOHEME,**
Patria Opressa **MACBETH,** Credo **OTELLO,**
Leonora's Scena, Anvil Chorus **IL TROVATORE,**
E lucevan le stelle, Te Deum, Vissi d'arte **TOSCA,**
Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves **NABUCCO,** Finale **TURANDOT**
La donna è mobile, Cortigiani **RIGOLETTO,**
Humming Chorus **MADAM BUTTERFLY,**
Tu che le vanita, Friendship Duet **DON CARLOS,**
Grand March AIDA
Nessun dorma TURANDOT
£19.50 £16.50 £12.50 £10.50 £7.50 071 928 8800

SUNDAY 22 MARCH at 7.30
HANDEL MOZART-HAYDN
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA Dir: *PHILIP LEDGER*
Clarinet: *THEA KING* Trumpet: *ANDREW CROWLEY*
HANDEL .... ARRIVAL OF THE QUEEN OF SHEBA
HANDEL .... WATER MUSIC SUITE
MOZART .... CLARINET CONCERTO
HAYDN .... TRUMPET CONCERTO
MOZART .... SYMPHONY No 41 (JUPITER)
£6.50 £9.50 £12.50 £15.50 £18.50 071 928 8800

SUNDAY 26 APRIL at 7.30
GRAND OPERA GALA
NATIONAL SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA
PRO MUSICA CHORUS LONDON CHORALE
FANFARE TRUMPETERS OF THE ROYAL ENGINEERS
Cond: *DAVID COLEMAN* Sop: *LOUISA KENNEDY*
Tenor: *PHILIP CREASY* Baritone: *JOHN CASHMORE*
Overture **WILLIAM TELL,** Toreador's Song **CARMEN,**
Una furtiva lagrima **L'ELISIR D'AMORE.**
Meditation **THAIS,** Largo al factotum **BARBER OF SEVILLE,**
Soldiers' Chorus **FAUST,** Duet **PEARL FISHERS.**
Dove sono **MARRIAGE OF FIGARO,**
Auto da fe chorus **DON CARLOS,** Mi chiamano Mimi,
Che gelida maninna, O soave fanciula **LA BOHEME,**
Prologue **I PAGLIACCI,** Polovtsian Dances **PRINCE IGOR**
Caro nome, La donna è mobile **RIGOLETTO,**
Ride of the Valkyries **THE VALKYRIE,**
La ci darem **DON GIOVANNI**
Grand March **AIDA** • Nessun dorma **TURANDOT**
£7.50 £10.50 £13.50 £16.50 £19.50 071 928 8800

BARBICAN HALL
071-638 8891 9am-8pm DAILY

Seat prices available at time of going to press

IN TUNE? A Weekend of Microtonal Music 7-8 March, Guildhall School, St Giles Cripplegate and Barbican Centre
Britain's first festival exploring the sounds between the notes. Directed by James Wood. Weekend Tickets £12.50 (Contact Box Office for full details).

Ton't 7 March 7.45pm Tomor 8 Mar 7.30pm	**VERDI REQUIEM** Claudio Arrau Memorial Concert London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus, Sir Colin Davis cond. Sharon Sweet, Katherine Ciesinski, Vicente Ombuena, Robert Lloyd soloists £5.50 £9 £12.50 £15 £18.50 £28 7 MAR SPONS. BY UNION DISCOUNT COMPANY OF LONDON PLC LSO Ltd presented in assoc. with the Royal Philharmonic Society 8 MAR SPONSORED BY PETER STUYVESANT FOUNDATION
Mon 9 March 7.45pm	**VIVALDI: THE FOUR SEASONS** English Chamber Orchestra Stephanie Gonley violin/director, William Bennett, Kate Hill flutes Ian Watson harpsichord Bach: Brandenburg Concerto No 4 & No 5 £18 £15 £12 £9 £6 £4 *English Chamber Orchestra and Music Society*
Tues 10 March 7.45pm	**LSO BRASS ENSEMBLE** Eric Crees cond. Prog. inc. works by Copland, Gabrieli, Bach, Barber, Bernstein arr. Crees £14* (incl. copy of première LSO Brass recording of American Music with every 2 seats booked) £4 £7.50 £10 *SPONSORED BY COLLINS CLASSICS*
Wed 11 March 7.45pm	**MICHALA PETRI** – Recorder, Academy of St Martin in the Fields Chamber Ensemble. Purcell: Fantasia in 3 parts Gabrieli: Sonata in G Sammartini: Recorder Concerto in G Vivaldi: Concerto in E minor Op 11 No.2 Il Favorito Pachelbel: Canon and Gigue Jacob: Suite for recorder and strings Dvorak: Terzetto Vivaldi: Recorder Concerto in C £16 £13 £10 £7.50 £5 *Barbican Centre*
Thurs 12 March 7.45pm	**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Sir Colin Davis cond. Gyorgy Pauk violin, Ralph Kirshbaum cello, Peter Frankl piano Beethoven: Triple Concerto Bruckner: Symphony No 7 £12.50 £15 £19.50 £28 ONLY *LSO Ltd*
Fri 13 March 7.45pm	**BBC SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Andrew Davis cond. Boris Berman piano Richard Strauss: Don Juan Prokofiev: Piano Concerto No.5 Beethoven: Symphony No.3, Eroica £20 £15 £11 £7 £4 *BBC*
Sun 15 March 4.00pm	**MARIA JOAO PIRES** – Piano; Barbican Celebrity Recitals Series. Beethoven: Sonata in D minor, Tempest; Sonata in E, Op 109 Schumann: 3 Romances, Op 28; Faschingsschwank aus Wien, Op 26 £12 £8 £5 *Barbican Centre*
Sun 15 March 7.30pm	**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Jeffrey Tate cond. Roy Carter oboe, Andrew Marriner clarinet, Martin Gatt bassoon Hugh Seenan horn Mozart: Sinfonia Concertante, K297b for oboe, clarinet, bassoon and horn Shostakovich: Symphony No 4 £5.50 £9 £12.50 £15 £19.50 £28 *LSO Ltd*
Mon 16 March 7.15pm	**BBC YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR** incorporating Lloyds Bank Young Composer Award Final. Nash Ensemble, Simon Halsey cond. Concert with the twelve finalists plus performances from past winners. £15 £13 £11 £9 £7 £5 *BBC Television in assoc. with Lloyds Bank*
Wed 18 March 8.00pm	**LONDON ARTS ORCHESTRA** Paul Christ cond. Raphael Wallfisch cello Walton: Crown Imperial Rodrigo: Don Quixote's Dreams of Dulcinea (British première) Elgar: Cello Concerto plus popular Bernstein & Gershwin £16 £13 £10 £7.50 £5 *in assoc. with LBC Newstalk 97.3FM London Arts Orchestra*
Thurs 19 March 7.45pm	**LONDON SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** Jeffrey Tate cond. Peter Donohoe piano. Elgar: Ov. Froissart Rachmaninov: Piano Concerto No.1 Sibelius: Symphony No.2 *LSO Ltd* £5.50 £9 £12.50 £15 £19.50 £28 *SPONSORED BY LLOYDS BANK*

IMG Artists in association with the Barbican Centre
Great Orchestras of the World
WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 7.45PM
LEIPZIG GEWANDHAUS
KURT MASUR conductor
STRAUSS
Metamorphosen; Four Last Songs; Till Eulenspiegel
JULIA VARADY soprano
Seat Prices £30 £24 £18 £12 £6
SPONSORED BY DEUTSCHE BANK
BARBICAN HALL 071 638 8891 (9-8 DAILY)

SOUTH BANK
Tel/CC 071-928 8800 10am to 9pm daily

ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL

Sat 7 Mar 7.30	**EUROPE IN CONCERT** Royal Choral Society, City of London Sinfonia, H.M. Band of the Welsh Guards, Laszlo Heltay (cond), Robin Ray (intro) Featuring music by composers of the European Community £20, £16, £12.50, £9, £5.50 RCS
Sun 8 Mar 7.30	**GREAT CLASSICS** London Concert Orchestra, Fraser Goulding (cond) James Lisney (pno) Prog inc Rachmaninov Pno Conc No.2 Bizet Carmen Suite, J.Strauss Blue Danube, Ravel Bolero £21, £19, £17, £15, £11.50, £8.50, £5.50 Raymond Gubbay
Tue 10 Mar 7.30	**TCHAIKOVSKY/BRAHMS** Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra, James Blair (conductor) John Lill (piano) Brahms Piano Concerto No 2 Tchaikovsky Symphony No 6 (Pathetique) £14, £12, £9.50, £7.50, £5.50, £4.50 YMSO Soc
Wed 11 Mar 7.30	**ORCHESTRA OF THE ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN** Bernard Haitink (conductor) Felicity Lott (soprano), Strauss Four Last Songs. An Alpine Symphony. £9, £6 (ONLY) The Orchestra of the Royal Opera House
Fri 13 Mar 7.30	**CITY OF BIRMINGHAM SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA**, Towards the Millennium. Simon Rattle (cond) Nielsen Sym No 3, Szymanowski Songs of a Fairytale Princess, Ravel Daphnis & Chloe £25, £19.50, £16.50, £13.50, £11, £8, £5 CBSO SBC

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL

Sat 7 Mar 7.45	**LCO IN CONCERT** Christopher Warren-Green (dir vln) Vivaldi Concertos for 4 violins RV 580, 2 cellos, 3 violins RV 551 Bach Brandenburg Concerto No 6, Albinoni Adagio Telemann Viola Concerto £12.50 £10.50, £7.50 London Chamber Orchestra Ltd
Sun 8 Mar 3.00	**BRODSKY QUARTET** 20th Anniversary Season. Bridge Three Idylls, Prokofiev Quartet No 2, Op.92, Dvorak Quartet in F, Op 96 (American) £12, £9, £7, £5 Hanson/Parrott Ltd
Mon 9 Mar 7.45	**FOU TS'ONG** (piano) Chopin Two Nocturnes, Op 27 Schumann Kreisleriana Debussy Preludes Book 2 £10.50, £8.50 £6.50 Spoalhout
Tue 10 Mar 7.45	**MILTON KEYNES CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** Hilary Davan Wetton (cond) Vanya Milanova (vln) Richard Baker (intro) William Crotch Ov in G, Mendelssohn Violin Concerto Beethoven Sym No.2 & new work premiere £15.50 £13, £8.50 £6 MKCO
Wed 11 Mar 7.45	**EUROPE IN HARMONY** London Mozart Players, Howard Shelley (cond) Prog inc Holst Beni Mora Walton A Song for the Lord Mayor's Table, Turnage Let us Sleep Now Bridge Suite for Strings £14, £11.50, £9, £7, £4.50 The Haydn-Mozart Society
Fri 13 Mar 7.45	**LONDON SOLOISTS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA** David Josefowitz (cond) Bach Brandenburg Concerto No.2 Vivaldi Flute Concerto Op.10/2, Magnificat, Violin Concerto Op 10/1, Bach Magnificat £12, £10, £8 £7 £5.50 £5 LSCO

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Tiger-taming poet who likes to travel light

Fay Weldon (below) introduces the work of Elaine Feinstein, whose eleventh novel *Loving Brecht* is published this week



When asked how she would like her new novel to be described, Elaine Feinstein, that elegant and very English lady of letters — D.Litt., Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, winner of the 1990 Cholmondeley Award for Poets, biographer, novelist, screenwriter and so forth — says: "Tell them it's a good romping read."

Loving Brecht is, of course, nothing of the kind. It is a tale of desperate and obsessional female love, as it tries to tame the erotic tiger — in this case Brecht, the most theatrical of beasts — with the only weapons available, that is to say bonds of silk and words of reason, whilst knowing from the beginning that tigers can never be tamed: that the world of power, politics and the arts rolls relentlessly on, taking precious little notice of women, creatures who just happen to turn up in the bed from time to time. It's a novel which is painfully acute, passionate, highly readable, delicately written and often very funny, but it is no *romp*. Works of art are many things but seldom are they romps.

And if I describe Ms Feinstein as English — which her name, her background and indeed her appearance belie — it is because she speaks of her work with the nervous, disarming diffidence of the English woman writer, wary of making claims for her work, fearful of being found presumptuous. Catch Marguerite Duras (French) or Alison Lurie (American) or Nadine Gordimer (South African) — and it is in this literary league that Elaine Feinstein belongs — waving away their work in this fashion. Never! Takes an Englishwoman.

Though I might be wrong: it might not, I suppose, be so much the habit of English self-deprecation that has Ms Feinstein in its grip, as a classical education and the fear that the fates might overhear if she talked about "this major new novel of mine", sense hubris, and strike her down with, say, aphasia: that disorder of the reading/writing function of the brain which writers so fear. Can't read, can't write, all of a sudden! And whose fault? Her Own! She got too good at it.

Having made the statement above, it seemed appropriate to check its wisdom out with Elaine Feinstein herself. I faxed her to ask whether she had in fact studied classics at school, and come to that, what school had she attended and what it had been like; and did she have any views on hubris?

The reply came by return: "School was Wyggeston Grammar School, Leicester. I was well-taught, did well there. But I was usually in trouble for not having gym shoes and so forth. Yes, I did Latin at school — however I had a rather Jewish view of fate (*steil* Jewish, not biblical) in that things were only likely to be good for so long that you had to be prepared to deal with things collapsing, having to move on . . . Hubris? Yes, but I think it's connected. I wasn't exactly afraid of doing well so much as, for instance, owning anything that couldn't be *carried*."

And the feeling that to attract attention, to own anything, is to court danger, invite the pogrom, remains — the Feinstein family came originally from Odessa — and running like a thread through all her novels — 11 to date — is the Jewish consciousness, the understanding of "Kultur" (the sense that though survival is important, it cannot be survival at any price). Amongst the things that can be carried, almost unseen, come the arts, music, poetry, literature, the aesthetic sensibility.

Feinstein's natural habitat as a writer seems to be Middle Europe: the halfway point, as I see it, between the Russia of her ancestry and the England of her birth. *Loving Brecht*, set in pre-war Berlin, haunts like a Kurt Weill song, with its brooding, erotic, sorrowful defiance of fate.

The novel she next anticipates writing, after she has finished the biography of D.H. Lawrence and the three radio plays she owes the BBC, is set in Vienna in 1938. The past, she feels, is safe.

Elaine Feinstein the novelist, as I see her (being a novelist myself), is to many Elaine Feinstein the poet and translator of the poems of Marina Tsvetayeva. It takes a good poet to translate a good poet and then to make it work. I quote:

But this dark is deep.
now I warm you with my blood,
listen
to this flesh.
It is far truer than poems.

"Yes, I'm afraid it is my voice," says Feinstein. "I tried to make it hers. I copied forms, imitated rhythms, and still it is my voice."

And this is Feinstein herself, not via Tsvetayeva:

Listen, I shall have to whisper it
into your heart directly: we are
all
supernatural/every day
we rise new creatures/cannot
be predicted.

The poet, she suspects, captures a feeling, seals it in words surrounded by space. The novelist communicates a feeling, hands it over for use. It seems a feasible distinction.

How did she come to be a poet? This is her account of it. She was living on a desolate housing estate in Cambridgeshire: a young wife and mother of two small children. She was pushing a pram through the rain. There was a pinky, leaden sky. The trees were black and shiny. She found herself forming sentences in her mind to describe the whole. She went home, wrote them down, adjusted them, felt better. She had, she said, discovered how to turn the drab into the jewel. (That phrase, casually uttered and un-premeditated, seems to me as valid a description of what poetry is as I have ever heard.)

She judges poetry for the Gregory Awards and has done so for five years. Among her television work is a 12-part series on the life behind *The Edwardian Country Gentlewoman's Diary* for the BBC, which was spectacularly received; she is the author of a six-part television biography of Marie Stopes, *A Passionate Woman*, and three parts of a series based on the life of Bertolt Brecht; she has become, perforce, an expert on all aspects of Russian literature.

And, England being England, she is obliged to struggle in the face of practical and financial difficulties to accomplish this remarkable body of work. In other European countries, no doubt, cheques would be flung like roses where she walked and she would wake up each morning in the knowledge that the good opinion of the whole culture-conscious nation sustained her; though since universal acclamation is the worst possible thing for the writer, it is probably as well she is here. For all England's philistinism, indeed perhaps because of it, it produces the most wonderful writers.

● Loving Brecht *by Elaine Feinstein is published by Hutchinson at £13.99.*

TIM BISHOP



Elaine Feinstein: "she speaks of her work with nervous, disarming diffidence . . . fearful of being found presumptuous."

Pinning down the zeitgeist

CLASSICAL MUSIC

One of the great joys of this "Towards the Millennium" idea is that it generates programmes that are at once excitingly varied and smartly coherent. Here we go rifling through the 20th century as if through a great chest of drawers, pulling out a decade, a drawer, at a time, and anything we find is fair game simply by virtue of the time slot. It may be, to take the example of this opening concert from the project's second year and hence the century's second decade, a piece of elderly lavender-scented lingerie *à la* Franz Schreker bump up against a snappy ragtime bow tie of Stravinsky's. Never mind. Collisions are part of the entertainment. And they make a serious point too in suggesting that "*zeitgeists*" are not very easy creatures to pin down.

Another of the joys is to be sitting in an audience that has come with eager anticipation to hear this cornucopian musical making, the making of the century in which nearly all of us have spent our whole lives. In Birmingham, at least, where "Towards the Millennium" has its main base, the idea that the public for orchestral concerts is stuck in a Romantic timewarp is obvious nonsense: here we all were, smiling at the jokes and daftness of Satie's *Parade*, wondering at Ives's memories of a New England boyhood, chuckling at Stravinsky's comic virtuosity.

The performances — and here is a third joy — are a kind of dream. It is a happy coincidence that the early years of this annual spree are pointing at a period that sparks off so many sympathetic vibrations in **Simon Rattle**, the principal performing genius behind the idea. Right at the start, in the opening of *Parade*, it was evident that music was coming alive, in such things as a little pause to add to the ironic pomposity of the fat brass fanfare, or a choice variation of tone colour and stress to make the violins' response a sheet of glass.

The irregular instruments, too, were handled with a nice decorum by the **London Sinfonietta** percussionists: the revolver, the klaxon, the three gentlemen pouring water out of large buckets. Only the typewriter failed to make sufficient impression: an older model is needed for the authentic look and sound.

The next shock of the evening was to jump from this wonderful stupidity to the ranging, recollecting, inventing imagination of Ives's *Three Places in New England*. If the shock was less than it might have been, that was probably because of the Symphony Hall acoustic, which we have all been praising to the skies for the last year, but which encompassed Ives's music curiously uncomfortably: the orchestra sounded distant, and there was a jumped-up long reverberation on outbursts, especially at the end of the extravagant stars-and-stripes middle movement, a carnival of cross-cut marches, songs, dances and fantasies from a summer outing. Here, last night's audience in London will have had the advantage.



Stravinsky: comic skill

The two dozen instruments of Schreker's Chamber Symphony all sounded a bit wispy, but that is really in the nature of the piece. It was interesting to hear this radiant, caring performance so soon after *Der ferne Klang* at Opera North: the glistening sound world, on the edge of Richard Strauss, is very much the same, and so is the hazy extended emptiness: the armfuls of raptures that have no reason, no focus. One felt like a blind man at the cinema.

Inevitable changes to the seating plan unfortunately made it impossible to zip straight from this into the march-shuffle-dance of Stravinsky's *Rag-time*, as close as a year to the Schreker and eons away. Rattle and his players threw off a brilliant performance, and one that pointed up the comedy in, for instance, the wheeling round and round again of a sad deflationary cadence. Perhaps there is something in *zeitgeist* after all, if *Rag-time* can be seen as a comic short alongside Chaplin's films.

The same composer's *Renard* is a comedy too, as well as a farmyard fable and a clang of old Russia. All these aspects were marvellously realised here: the bell sounds in the opening march's episode for high woodwind and cimbalom (the Hungarian dulcimer that jangles and splashes through both *Rag-time* and *Renard*), the plucked feathers in the lively instrumental texture at the time of the irritating Cock's demise, the characterful humour in the singing of the four soloists.

Nigel Robson had a splendid line in seductive insinuation when impersonating the Fox as nun, sharply contrasting with Peter Hall's prim tones as the Cock, and there were other jollities in Stephen Roberts's falsetto singing and Terry Edward's quick steppings up and down the bottom-most rungs of the basso profundo ladder.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

Old warhorse returns in fine fettle

THEATRE

Marching Song
Theatr Clwyd, Mold

THIS absorbing production of an unjustly neglected play opens with searchlights raking the audience, immediately preparing us for a drama concerned with war. There is more.

John Whiting set his play in a villa overlooking the capital of a defeated nation: there is talk of the stench of corruption in the city below, but it would be all too easy to feel remote from this while characters recall past events, in particular the battle on the eastern front that General Forster lost by refusing to give the order to cross a river. For this failure, deemed to be cowardice, he has been incarcerated in a mountain prison for seven years and has now been brought secretly to the city, perhaps to stand trial.

In the villa, owned by his former mistress, Forster eventually explains his loss of will: an on-rush of humanity after shooting the child who impeded the advance of his tank. But Simon Higlett's exquisitely imaginative set keeps us aware that Forster's personal enlightenment has brought about national catastrophe.

The open stage of the studio theatre is floored with sheets of glass, and beneath it we see a vast plaster model of the shattered city, a concert hall with its dome in ruins, toppled columns, heaps of rubble. Higlett's set reminds us that when John Cadmus, the chancellor, talks of policy, when young Captain Hirst remembers war games in the street, or when the rent boy speaks of his trade, they have come to this palatial eyrie from a real and angry world.

Mention of the rent boy will puzzle those who remember that the cast originally included a waif-like prostitute (a girl) named Dido. Toby Robertson discovered that Whiting had planned, shortly before his death, to re-write his 1954 play with this change in mind, so as to account more clearly for Forster's resistance to suicide, the plan suggested to him by the wily Cadmus (Graham Crowden, excellent in voice and presence).

So, Rupert Frazer's ramrod Forster finds in the coarse vitality of the male prostitute, re-named Aeneas (a highly promising performance by John Padden in his professional debut), the embodiment of the unseen goatherd whose singing kept hope alive during his imprisonment.

Had Whiting lived, he would undoubtedly have changed more than the personal pronoun, and an ending that once showed a girl giving courage to a woman acquires a different import when a toy-boy comforts a matron. Even in his original play, Whiting under-wrote Aeneas/Dido's effect upon Forster, but in Robertson's surely paced production the drama gains in vigour from the change.

On the other hand, Frazer's Forster remains aloof for a dangerously long time, perhaps chary of implications, until the despairing cry at the end when he learns what the goatherd's song was actually about. The production is strongly cast, with Bernice Stegers as Forster's shallow mistress, Rhys Ifans as the coldly furious Hurst, and Clive Swift as the drunk filmmaker whose casual pick-up became, briefly, Forster's lifeline to redemption.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Illusions bring solid results

THEATRE

Le Señor Z
Battersea Arts Centre

PUPPET theatre, much less well known in Britain than it ought to be, covers a vast and rich range of theatrical traditions, stretching from Indonesia to Western Europe, and from earliest recorded times to the present day. Amoros et Augustin, the young and Strasbourg-based company who kicked off BAC's Visionmix festival of puppetry with dazzling wit and virtuosity, have created a modern and distinctive version of Shadow-show. This is the form of puppetry, born in Java, in which flat, intricately cut puppet-figures manipulated on rods are passed between lamps and a screen, which the audience faces.

If this all sounds technical, I make no apology, for two reasons: first, the audience is irresistibly drawn to the mystery of what exactly is happening behind the flimsy screen, not to mention the two visible fellows who provide sound effects and clever, energetic background music; and secondly, because behind the façade of narrative, Amoros et Augustin are really concerned with the workings of illusion.

There is a story (to reassure those allergic to postmodernist self-reflexivity): it is set in an unnamed land, which looks pretty much like Spaghetti Western country, terrorised by a bloodthirsty tyrant, who is defied by the masked, moustachioed Señor Z — or two Señor Zs. Amoros et Augustin have had the idea of superimposing a further level of illusion on the shadow-show, half-persuading us that the screen we are watching is a cinema screen, projected upon from the front rather than lit from the back.

This means that we get thundering horse rides, flashing duels (marvellously fought with bendy swords), last-minute rescues, but that we are never allowed to forget the illusion, the double illusion. There is a delicious moment when one rider disappears off the edge of the screen — the cinema screen that is — only to reappear as the shadow of celluloid is rolled back onto the screen, the *real* screen.

Is all this play with illusion emptily precious, like the films of Jean-Luc Beneix? Somehow what quickly palls in the cinema has a more tenacious appeal in the flimsier but more human world of puppetry. Watching Jean-Pierre Schall creating his battery of sound-effects (turning keys, dripping water, clippety-clopping hooves) is mesmeric — and then he leans towards the screen and casually kicks a shadow-dog.

At the end the screen is lifted. There for all to see are the intricate machinery of lights, pulleys and planes, the little scrap of celluloid which created the whole filmic illusion and, proudly brandished on their poles, the cut-out figures which filled the screen.

HARRY EYRES

THE SUNDAY TIMES

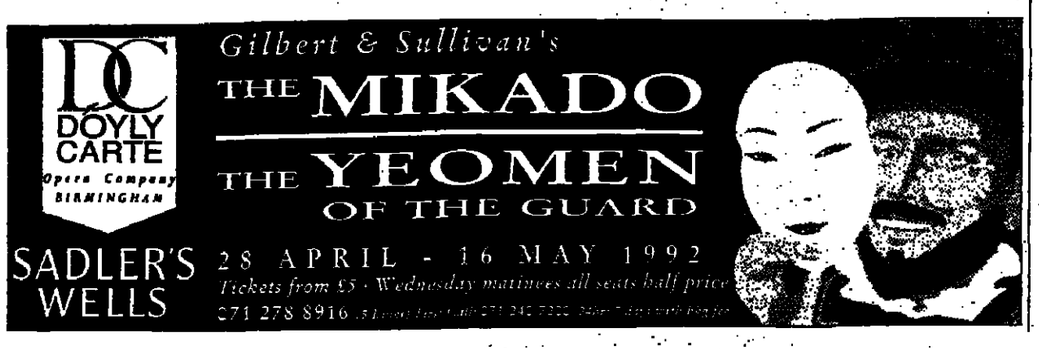
Westminster Abbey is nearly restored. Another three years, another few million spent on painstaking cutting, patching, carving, sandblasting and leadwork, and the task begun in 1975 will be over. For a while, at least . . .

Hugh Pearman on the unveiling of the restored Abbey — in The Sunday Times tomorrow

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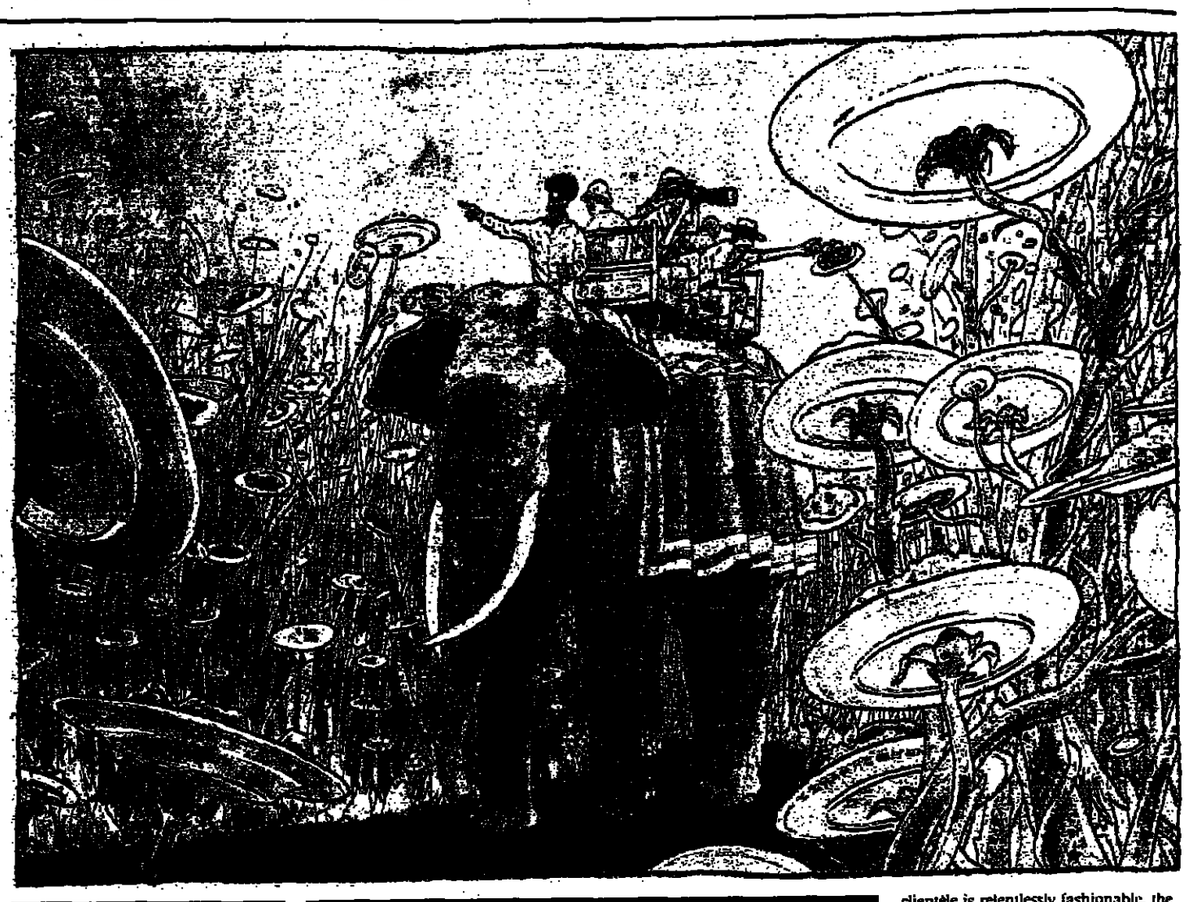




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Hot stuff for a captive audience





Tourists go where locals may fear to tread — in pricey Indian joints, says Jonathan Meades

The **Bombay Brasserie** opened nine years ago and is supposed to have been going downhill ever since, which means that it must have begun somewhere near the summit of K2, for it is today still far superior to the overwhelming majority of "Indian" restaurants in Britain. And far bigger, far flashier, and far, far dearer.

Still, word of its allegedly slipping standards must have got round for although the Sunday night I ate there it was all but full, I'd be prepared to wager that only about 10 per cent of its customers were Londoners. The next table was taken by a French couple, beyond them a large party of Americans, then some Japanese, then a German group. The Cromwell Road air terminal closed down years ago but the area is still stiff with hotels: there is a captive audience on the doorstep. Added to which is the kind of expectation Londoners have of Indian restaurants. Paramount among these is (low) price. The memory of the five bob kofta curry meal in a health hazard adorned with out-of-register photos of Kashmiri houseboats creates a pecuniary trap. It's no use pointing out to the thus imprisoned that then they were driving deconsecrated Post Office vans and living in rancid bedsits, that now they drive boastful Volvos and "divide their time" between Holland Park and Painswick — the idea that Indian means cheap is fixed, forever.

I suspect that The Bombay Brasserie knows this and is resigned to it. Its ostentatious unsophistication is the very stuff of tourist joints. Likewise its menu: "In deference to the wishes of many of our regular clients including Faye Dunaway, we have pleasure in offering two really hot dishes from Southern India." Likewise the polished service — which is conducted by a cosmopolitan staff on the assumption that most diners will have rarely seen an Indian menu. And there are a number of other rather hick touches — a fizzy Kir has a cocktail cherry in it, there's live music from a pianist who now and again has a blast on a trumpet. Ask for a table in the conservatory where it is inaudible. The botanical garden has the further advantage of comparative intimacy. The main dining room, for all its subcontinental gewgaws, is reminiscent of a big south coast hotel.

The repertoire is pan-Indian and by no means run of the mill. There are Goan dishes, Bombay "snacks", Parsi offerings etc. There is no homogenisation — the practice of employing chefs trained in different regional traditions has apparently been adhered to. But there is a strangely nouvelle cuisine-like approach to certain items. This is not altogether unwelcome. Of all the world's kitchens India's seems to be the one most sorely in need of refinement and precision. Sometimes this tendency is cosmetically overexaggerated — a potato patty comprised a puck of mashed spud, lightly fried, and laid on a plate of three sauces, an eau-de-nil mint, a red one, and a third which tasted like HP. But mostly the results are good. Spices (and herbs) are used with care: the ambition is to delight the tongue rather than to wreak duodenal havoc.

Dunaway-approved "lamb pepper fry" is indeed hot but would taste wimpish to a phal-warrior. Flaked crab with coconut is hardly spiced at all. Fish cooked with mint paste in a banana leaf might be an invention of one of the better modern European cooks. Chicken tikka, a tandoori commonplace, is here raised to real heights by timing, quality of meat and subtlety of marinade: it's a fine chicken dish rather than a generically tandoori one. Buttered paratha is far from the old leather jacket posing as bread which often goes under that name, it's light and unctuous. For some reason main courses are served with unasked for vegetable selections — stews of potato, chick peas and carrots. Good, but insufficiently differentiated. A side dish of spinach with the cheese called paneer was impressive.

A jasmine tea sorbet was of a standard that a fine French restaurant would have been proud to serve. Masala tea (a milky tea with spices) was exemplary. The lassi is only so-so, and the hot towels weren't hot enough which was a disappointment — I enjoy the hammam sensation of being mugged by boiling rosewater. This was a fine dinner, no doubt. For the same sum, £88, one might of course eat equally well in many French or British restaurants without the worry, without the troubled gastronomic conscience, without the challenge to one's prejudices . . .

Perhaps this genus of restaurant is fated to cater only to tourists. **The Spice Merchant** is a large and largely characterless Bayswater basement whose cooking and customers match those south of the park. Save, that is, that there is less of both. The all-tourist clientele is here treated to a shorter menu in the same vein, to a *trompe l'oeil* above the entrance, to Muzak, to poorly organised service, to many empty tables. Ambience was off the night I ate there, alone. Because I was alone and thus — it goes without saying — certainly friendless and possibly psychopathic I was shoved in a corner where no one could see me, behind a pillar. From time to time two staff members in a convoy like the nos. 12 and 88 along the Baize outside would call by — but (by the immutable laws of such behaviour), never when I wanted anything. Still, if the dining-room and the staff are inoffensively deficient the cooking makes up for it.

Lassi is better than at The Bombay Brasserie. Paratha is a ringer. Macchi Chutneywali is a dish of baked flaky fish in an algae green sauce which looks (and tastes) as though it is composed of puréed peas. It is good stuff, better than a one-note fish curry. Paya curry is supposedly composed of lamb trotters and lamb marrow. What you get is a sage green soup, abundantly garlicked, in which are submerged countless bones. There is nothing for it but to suck the marrow from them and thank Kali you're hidden by the pillar, since the sound of this process is akin to that of a dentureless sunset home at tiffin. There's a terrific pudding of yoghurt and saffron. Good tea. Nice hot towel. And the price is kinder than the BB.

The Bombay Brasserie
5 *Courtfield Close, Courtfield Road, SW7 (071-370 4040)*
Lunch and dinner everyday. £75 plus.

The Spice Merchant
5 *130 Bayswater Road, W2 (071-221 2442)*
Lunch every day, dinner Mon to Sat. £55 plus.

COUSCOUS

Laurent
6 *428 Finchley Road, London NW2 (071-794 3603)*
Far and away the best of the few London restaurants that do couscous. It's actually better than most in Paris too. The grain is served with various combinations of grilled lamb and merguez sausages and with first class broth. To start with, the Tunisian *brik à l'oeuf* is delicious. Cheap and potent Moroccan wine. £28. Lunch and dinner Mon-Sat.

La Reash Couscous House 23-24 Greek Street, London W1 (071-439 1063)
2 Not really a couscous house at all but a Lebanese restaurant posing as an Algerian one. The meze is perfectly all right, the couscous is uninspired. £40 plus. Lunch and dinner every day.

Le Petit Prince
3 *5 Holmes Road, London NW5 (071-267 0752)*
Ad-hoc couscous joint. Not exactly a replica of Barbes Rochechouart, more like a gaff (or caff) in Amsterdam. The meats with the couscous are OK, the other grub is indifferent. Good value for money. £25. Lunch Tues-Fri, dinner every day.

Ali Baba
4 *32 Ivor Place, off Gloucester Place, NW1 (071-723 5805)*
Behind a takeaway in a central London backwater. The place is basically Egyptian, though it does dishes from all over the Middle East. Some of them are notable versions of standard items: *falafel* here is far superior to the desiccated norm, and the smoked aubergine purée called *mutabel* could not be bettered. The couscous is something of a disappointment in comparison. The yoghurt-based drink called *rup* is fine. Sweet service. £35. Lunch and dinner every day.

Adams Café
3 *77 Askew Road, W12 (081-743 0572)*
By day a greasy caff, by night a Tunisian couscous restaurant. It is very cheap, very amiable and the cooking (*brik à l'oeuf, bouletts* with *harissa*, couscous itself) is pleasant enough. £17. Dinner Mon-Sat. Unlicensed, bring your own.

STEAK AND CHIPS

L'Estaminet
7 *14 Garrick Street, WC2 (071-379 1432)*
The sort of French restaurant that one imagines France is full of, but which is now virtually extinct — bourgeois, comforting, devoid of pretension. The *menu's conservatism is matched only* by the kitchen's diligence. Simple dishes are cooked with the best ingredients and with absolute care. Warm Lyons sausage is served with potato salad, the house terrine is commendable, the salted herrings are deliciously oily, the brochette of mussels and *petit salé* with saffron rice is great stuff. Whiting is offered as a main course and so too are four cuts of first-class beef. Cheeses and wines are excellent, though there are too few of the latter. Puddings include chocolate tart. Good service. £50 plus. Lunch and dinner Mon-Sat.

Café des Fleurs
3 *280 West End Lane, London NW6 (071-435 5290)*
High-class steak and chip joint. The chips are offered in two widths and are both very good indeed, so too is the meat. The more ambitious daily specials are less appealing. Friendly service, inexpensive wines, flowery as its name suggests. £60 plus. Lunch and dinner Mon-Sun.

Grill St Quentin
3 *Yeoman's Row, Brompton Road, London SW3 (071-581 8377)*
One of the largest restaurants in London and based, decoratively, on one of the largest in Paris, La Coupole. However it is not a brasserie, but a steak and chips outfit which also serves standard issue luxury items such as foie gras terrine. Within its too narrow limits it's perfectly acceptable but it seems to be an opportunity missed. The clientèle is relentlessly fashionable, the service is relentlessly inept. £72. Lunch and dinner Mon-Sat.

Chez Gerard
5 *8 Charlotte Street, London W1 (071-636 4975)*
French steak house. The meat, especially the ribs and the Chateaubriand, is splendid and the pommes alumettes are among the best in town. Dishes of the day include *echt* Provençal offerings such as aïoli with salt cod. The wines are indifferent and the service is harried. Cheese is better than the sweets. £48 plus. Dinner every day, lunch Sun-Fri.

Le Café du Marché
4 *22 Charterhouse Mews, off Charterhouse Square, London EC1 (071-608 1609)*
Congenial bistro frequented by carnivore surgeons from Bart's. Raw beef and steak are fine, the more elaborate dishes are a bit of a let-down. Good sweets. £50 plus. Lunch Mon-Fri, dinner Mon-Sat.

The Quality Chop House
6 *94 Farringdon Road, London EC1 (071-837 5093)*
A former working men's dining rooms with high back settles and unadorned wooden tables. The restoration of the premises has been executed with diligence and sobriety. The cooking is mostly grills — veal chop with mustard sauce, rib eye steak and so on. The meat is excellent and the timing is spot on. The salmon fish cakes with sorrel sauce are lovely. An altogether welcome address in an area where decent establishments are thin on the ground. £28-40. Lunch Mon-Fri, brunch Sun (noon-3.30pm), dinner every night.

JONATHAN MEADES'S RESTAURANT GUIDE

Marks — up to a maximum of ten — are awarded for cooking and although they are intended to reflect value for money they are not determined by this consideration alone: certain very costly restaurants are very good, certain very cheap ones are, too. All prices given are approximate — they are for a three-course meal for two, including modest wine and an aperitif. Dishes are mentioned only as an indication of the repertoire. Never be afraid to complain. Phone first. It is not only discourteous but illegal to dishonour bookings: that goes for restaurants as well as customers. **J.M.**

Beware beluga pirates



Black gold: Natalie Rebeiz knows real caviare when she tastes it

The collapse of the Soviet Union has created a black market in false caviare. The experts explain what to look out for

Things are a little sticky in the caviare trade at present. That is not only due to the recession. It has also to do with the collapse of the Soviet Union, and, most pertinent of all, the fact that sturgeon roe that is not correctly packed and stored rapidly deteriorates to a tacky fish glue.

There is a lot of such over-priced fish paste about at the moment that has been poached or stolen and then smuggled in suitcases, car boots and even overcoat pockets. Confiscations at many customs checkpoints on the Continent have multiplied tenfold in the past year, but much still gets through.

"We are being offered stuff all the time." Steve Hatt, a fishmonger in Islington, north London, says. "One woman pulled up outside in a black Mercedes with ten big tins in the boot. She claimed she'd got them for £10 in eastern Europe, but we would not touch it. We get our order from the same supplier we have been dealing with for years."

Reputable retailers like Mr Hatt say they would never risk buying caviare from unknown sources. "You don't know where it has been, or how it has been kept. It could be quite uneatable. It might even be dangerous."

The risk of food poisoning, while real, may not be too menacing. Caviare is naturally a very clean food with extremely low counts of bio-organisms per gram and has up to 4 per cent salt to help preserve it. The greatest protection, though, is the fact that seriously tainted caviare is likely to be so offensive that nobody would eat it.

Asking to see certificates of health or of origin is no use, since all caviare is repackaged for sale from larger, original tins. Smaller tins and jars, and certificates to go with them, are widely counterfeited, so customers have to put their trust in the reputation of the retailer.

"People walk in off the street and try to sell me caviare," Jean-Charles Carrarini at Villandry in Marylebone High Street, central London, says. "I do not have many customers for caviare, but I would not sell it at all unless I could be absolutely certain I was selling them a good one."

"I bought cheap caviare once," says Matthew Pinhey of the specialist food merchants and restaurant suppliers, Alan Porter. "Never again. Caviare is so susceptible to changes in temperature that you have to be very careful."

By courtesy of George Rebeiz, founder of Caviar House, the company that claims to sell one-third of the caviare consumed in the west, I tasted some contraband caviare.

Compared to the pearly, separate and undamaged fish eggs in Caviar House's tins, the jar of black-market roe was a murky, grey goo, instead of being shiny, firm and distinct.

The gunge-like contents of the jar made it very easy to understand how soldiers in the first world war described caviare as "fish jam".

This sample of black-market caviare, Mr Rebeiz said, was well above average standard. It smelt pronouncedly fishy and had a bitter and rather unpleasant aftertaste. While by no means inedible, it tasted more like superior chopped herring than inferior caviare, and required liberal amounts of chopped onion or boiled egg to make it palatable.

"It is not as bad as a lot I have seen," Mr Rebeiz said.

Neil Mayell, general manager of the caviare importers Grivan, says he would have no difficulty obtaining illicit supplies. "We get up to four or five phone calls a week. They know nothing about caviare and have probably never even seen what they are trying to sell, but they say they know where they can get hold if it. Sometimes they say they can supply up to ten tonnes of the stuff. The whole British market is barely a tonne. I tell them I have got to sell caviare, not buy it."

Some of the rogue roe, Mr Mayell admits, is not bad stuff. "A friend who had bought some asked me to do him a favour, bunging it in different tins and repackaging it. I took a look and it seemed quite good quality at a price that sounded pretty fair, but then it almost certainly had not had any duty paid on it and would not have had a health certificate."

Bob Campbell of R.E. Campbell says: "This is really nothing new. There has always been a strong contraband element in the trade, both from Russia and Iran. There is certainly a lot now coming out, much of it with forged certificates of origin that look quite plausible until you check them out with the state concern in Moscow.

"There are 4oz glass jars of pasteurised caviare coming out through Finland, packed in blue official-looking jars and claiming to be beluga, but the caviare is not even genuine. Break the grains on a plate and you get yellow oil. It is not beluga, but much cheaper oscietre." Since beluga now accounts for less than 2 per cent of the caviare catch, claims to have any available at a cheap price must be regarded with extreme suspicion. Even "reputable" merchants have been caught packing oscietre in tins marked "beluga".

The oldest established British caviare importers, W.G. White, recently mooted the idea of an association of reputable merchants who would introduce a certification system to warrant the quality and legitimate origins of their product.

"The idea has been discussed at one meeting," Stewart Harper, the managing director, says. "It has not progressed very far, but it could become necessary because ours is not a big market for caviare, yet now there are quantities of contraband being peddled round London such as we have never seen before."

ROBIN YOUNG

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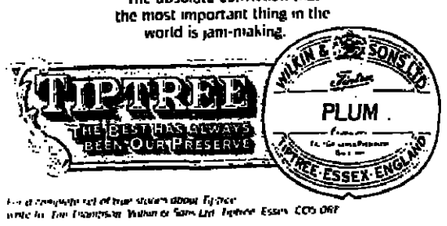
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KIND FOOD: ALISON JOHNSON

Free-range rovers

You may have been puzzling recently over the labels on free-range chicken. It is nice to report that in this case the labelling is intended to enlighten rather than to dazzle shoppers. European Commission regulations lay down the terms of a free-range chicken's existence in three categories: Free Range, Traditional Free Range, and Free Range Total Freedom.

All three categories have access to outside, vegetated runs. For the first category, chickens are stocked at 13 per square metre inside houses, with 1sq m of outside range per bird. The minimum slaughter age is 56 days.

For the two latter categories the space allowance is more generous, at 12 per sq m, with 2sq m of outside range per bird.

The total number of birds per house is limited (to 4,800 birds) and the minimum slaughter age is 81 days. Total Freedom, in addition, means that the birds are not fenced in.

For Traditional Free Range and Free Range Total Freedom, a breed which grows more slowly is used. This is more humane: fast-growing strains carry mature weight on immature bones, with consequent distortion and pain.

Is there any difference in taste, to persuade hard-nosed shoppers to pay up to twice the price? Even people who buy free-range chicken for welfare reasons often claim that there is no advantage in flavour.

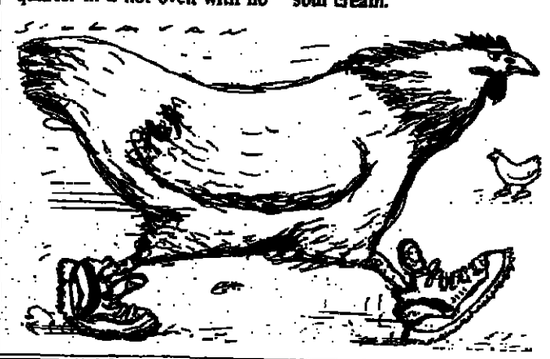
This can be true of birds labelled "free range", but the slower maturing breeds used for the other two categories are noticeably tastier and more succulent. I treated one of Sainsbury's Traditional Free Range birds to an hour and a quarter in a hot oven with no basting. It was still juicy and tasty.

Flavour is even greater when dead birds have been hung for a time. It may also be affected by stress before and during slaughter. These refinements are what you pay for when you buy from small specialist farms, which also usually use organic or conservation grade husbandry methods. Such chicken tastes like it did in the days when it was a rare and mouthwatering treat.

A tasty free-range chicken does not need fancy cooking. I recommend straightforward roasting, with maybe half an onion and a bayleaf or a chunk of lemon in the cavity, basting with a tablespoon of butter or olive oil. Leave to stand ten minutes before carving, while you prepare a sauce with the pan drippings. The basic method is to skim off all but a dessertspoon of the cooking fat. Then briefly sauté vegetables in this in the roasting tin. Pour in stock, wine or thin cream, scraping up all the crusty bits from the bottom of the tin, add herbs and seasonings. Pour over the carved chicken, which will keep its own texture and character when treated this way.

Here are some suggested combinations. In each case, slice vegetables finely. Add a teaspoon of flour if you prefer a thick sauce.

- One leek, 250g oyster mushrooms, juice ½ lemon, 100ml single cream, nutmeg or one teaspoon grated ginger.
- Small red pepper, two cloves garlic, dessertspoon capers, one tablespoon tomato purée, glass white wine.
- One tablespoon each chopped chives and fresh coriander, one fresh green chilli, 100ml sour cream.





Hot, sweet, sour and fresh



A visit to Thailand sends Frances Bissell, The Times cook, to the shops in search of spices

I have been back from Thailand for just a few weeks and show all the classical signs of the "been to". Sudden urges to eat food flavoured with lemon grass and limeleaf come over me. I look for the smallest, meanest chillis I can find. The palm sugar I brought back from our visit to Sri Lanka last year has been promoted from the depths of hoarder's corner to the kitchen cupboard. And I re-read the grease stained notebook I kept in the kitchen of the Dusit Thani's Benjarong restaurant in Bangkok.

I loved the spicy Thai salads or *yams* with their sweet-sour combination, often from green mangoes and palm sugar, and the hidden bite of green or red chillies. Just as good though were the Vietnamese salads. In Bangkok's Thien Duong restaurant kitchen I learnt how to make spring rolls, the fresh ones being even nicer than the deep fried ones, *banh xeo*, which is a crisp pancake flavoured with turmeric and filled with pork, shrimp, chives and beansprouts, and the marvellous fresh-tasting *goi* or salads. Vietnamese food is particularly suitable for summer when we have an abundance of fresh herbs and salad. But the grapefruit salad can be made now.

My latest urge to cook Thai food came upon me when I was on the way to my local Waitrose. A packet of Thai spices for 59p contains a few red and green chillis, garlic chives (*kuchai*), lemon grass and the indispensible lime leaves. I also bought fresh mint, basil, coriander and ginger, a cucumber, some shitake mushrooms, a pomelo and the rest of the ingredients. One of the salads from the store's salad bar which contained beansprouts, cabbage, shredded carrots, cucumber, coriander and plenty of peanuts was perfect for the spring rolls, together with some herbs and shrimps. The peanuts I picked out and toasted in a pan.

Rice flour wrappers, sold as *galettes de riz* or *banh trang*, store well and can be found in oriental food shops. I have used baking quality rice paper, but this is less successful for fresh spring rolls, although it works quite well for deep-fried rolls. The paper must be made pliable first by laying it on a damp teatowel. The rice flour wrappers must also be dampened to soften them from their transparent brittle state. If you cannot get them, make thin rice flour pancakes.

Fish sauce (*nam pla* in Thai, *nuoc mam* in Vietnamese) and galangal, a rhizome somewhat similar to ginger in appearance if not in flavour, can also be found in oriental shops and are widely used in the cooking of Southeast Asia. Soy sauce will give some of the saltiness of fish sauce but not its pungency.

Thin rice flour pancakes
(makes 8-to 10)

2oz/60g fine rice flour
1½oz/45g self-raising flour
pinch of salt
2 free-range egg whites
7floz/200ml water

Sift the two flours and salt together. Beat in the egg whites, and gradually add the water until you have a smooth batter of pouring consistency. Cover and let it stand for about an hour. Heat a well-seasoned pan, and wipe with an oiled pad of kitchen paper. When hot, pour on a very thin layer of batter, swirling the pan around to get an even coating. When the top surface looks dry, turn it over with a spatula, and cook the other side. Stack up the pancakes as you cook them, separated by sheets of greaseproof paper, on a plate.

Spring rolls and dipping sauces

Pork and prawn stuffing

1 onion
1 carrot
1 celery stalk
6 water chestnuts or a Jerusalem artichoke
6oz/170g lean pork tenderloin
6oz/170g peeled raw prawns
2tbsp groundnut oil
1tbsp soy sauce or fish sauce
1 to 2 cloves crushed garlic
1tsp grated ginger
1tsp grated fresh galangal
1tsp finely chopped lemon grass

Peel and roughly chop the vegetables. Dice the pork, and put in a food processor with the prawns and half the vegetables. Process briefly until it has the texture of mince. Chop the rest of the vegetables by hand, quite finely. Mix with the pork and prawns, and fry in the groundnut oil for ten to 15 minutes. Season with the rest of the ingredients, and pile in a bowl.

Fillings

peeled cucumber, cut in half, seeded and cut into thin strips
shredded or sliced spring onions
coriander leaves
basil leaves
mint leaves
finely sliced celery
blanched beansprouts
garlic chives

To assemble the rolls, which is very similar to the way one tackles Peking duck, spoon on some pork and prawn mixture, and then add some of the herb and vegetables. Roll up the soft wrapperturning in both ends to close them, and eat after dipping in one of the dipping sauces. These rolls can also be deep-fried.

Sauces

Chilli sauce

4tbsp rice vinegar or lime juice
2tbsp water
1tbsp sugar
3 or 4 chillies, finely sliced

Mix the vinegar, water and sugar, and add the chillies. For ginger or garlic vinegar, prepare as above, but substitute two tablespoons finely grated ginger or two to three peeled, crushed garlic cloves mixed with a little salt for the chillies.

Coconut sauce

1 small onion, peeled and thinly sliced
2-3in/5-7.5cm thick end of lemon grass, thinly sliced
1tsp crushed coriander seeds
1tbsp groundnut oil
3oz/85g coconut cream, broken off a block
3tbsp stock

Fry the onion, lemon grass and coriander in the oil until the mixture is fragrant. Stir in the coconut cream, and when it has melted, add enough stock to give the sauce a good consistency for dipping. To make a peanut dipping sauce, substitute peanut butter for coconut cream.

DIANA LEADBETTER



Thien Duong sweet grapefruit salad with pork and shrimp
(Goi buoi tom tit)

(serves 6 to 8)

6-8oz/170-230g piece pork tenderloin
slice of fresh ginger
1in slice lemon grass stalk
8 fresh tiger prawns
Salad ingredients
lettuce or radicchio
1 cucumber
2 teaspoons salt
1 pomelo
1 carrot, peeled and cut into julienne
3oz/85g beansprouts, blanched
1 small red onion or 2 shallots, peeled
1tsp grated fresh ginger
1 lemon grass stalk, thinly sliced
fresh lime juice to taste
sugar to taste
fish sauce to taste
coriander leaves
mint leaves or basil leaves
1 or 2 red or green chillies, sliced
2oz/60g dry roasted peanuts, crushed

Thinly slice the pork. Put the ginger, garlic and lemon grass in a saucepan with about ½pt/280ml water. Bring to the boil, and simmer for a few minutes. Lower the heat, drop in the pork, and poach for about three to five minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon, drain, and put to one side. Poach the shrimps until just firm, opaque and pink. Remove and drain them. When cool enough to handle, shell and de-vein the prawns, and chop into two or three pieces.

Line a platter or salad bowl with lettuce or radicchio leaves. The cucumber can be prepared either as long shreds taken off with a potato peeler, 2-3in/5-7.5cm strips, or by quartering lengthways. Place in a sieve, sprinkle with salt, and leave to drain for 20 to 30 minutes. Peel the thick skin from the pomelo, and then remove the tough thin skin from each segment. Break the segments up into small pieces, and put in a bowl with the carrot, beansprouts, onion, ginger and lemon grass. Rinse and dry the cucumber, and add to the vegetables. Mix together the lime juice, sugar and fish sauce, and stir in the shredded herbs and chilli. Add water if necessary to thin down the mixture.

Stir this into the salad, and add the pork and shrimp. Let the mixture stand for a while to let the flavours develop, and then spoon into the salad bowl. Scatter the crushed peanuts on top, and garnish with more herbs.

Simple Thai red curry chicken
(pad nang gai)

(serves 4 to 6)

Curry paste

1tsp coriander seeds
1tsp cumin seeds
1tsp white peppercorns
1tsp coarse sea salt
3 garlic cloves, peeled and roughly chopped
1 or 2 lime leaves, finely shredded
1 stalk lemon grass, finely sliced
1in/2.5cm piece of fresh galangal, if available, or use fresh ginger instead
4-6 fresh red chillies, deseeded and roughly chopped
1-2tsp shrimp paste

In a mortar first grind the dry spices. Then add the salt, and grind in the garlic, leaves and galangal. The salt will make grinding easier. Pound in the chillies and the shrimp paste.

Two to three chicken breasts will be sufficient. These should be skinned and boned, and the smooth side should be cross-hatched several times. Rub the paste into the chicken. You also need the following ingredients:

¼pt/140ml coconut cream or thick coconut milk from a can
2 lime leaves, finely shredded
2tsp light muscovado or palm sugar
¼pt/140ml chicken stock
2tbsp fish sauce
1tbsp dry roasted crushed peanuts
basil leaves

In a well-seasoned pan or wok, fry the chicken on both sides for two to three minutes, which will bring out the spice aromas. Remove from the pan, add the rest of the ingredients, except the peanuts and basil leaves, and use only half the stock. Stir and bring to the boil, put the chicken pieces back, and simmer gently until the chicken is cooked through. Serve sprinkled with peanut powder and shredded basil leaves.

Grilled coconut custard

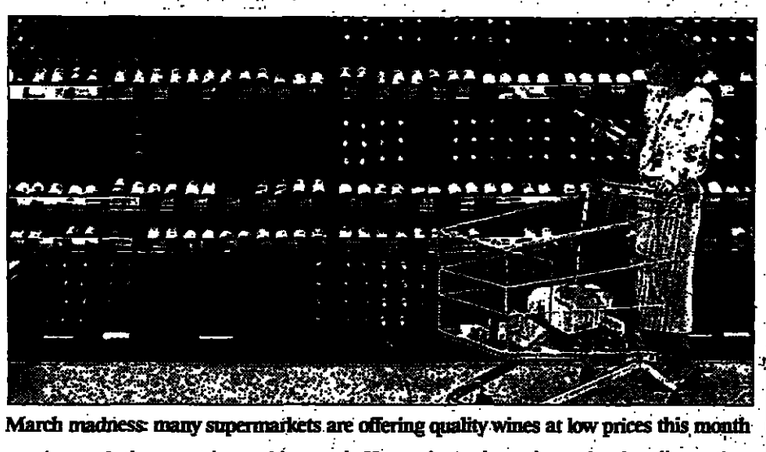
(serves 8)

1x400ml can coconut milk
2oz/60g caster sugar
5 egg whites
4oz/110g light muscovado or demerara sugar

Empty the milk into a bowl, and stir in the sugar. Beat in the egg whites, and strain into small lightly oiled ramekins. Place in a bain-marie or a roasting tin with a little water, and bake in the middle of a pre-heated moderate oven, 180C/350F, gas mark 4 for about 20 minutes. Alternatively, the custards can be steamed for ten to 15 minutes. Whole eggs can be used, but the egg whites keeps the custard pale. Allow the custards to cool and set. Sprinkle with sugar, and grill until the sugar caramelises. Serve warm or chilled.

Beat the Budget blues

Whatever happens in the Budget next Tuesday, there are plenty of bargains around, writes Jane MacQuitty



March madness: many supermarkets are offering quality wines at low prices this month

Mad March bargains start here. Spring trading looks as dire for wine merchants as it was in the depths of winter and slashed prices abound. With 90p duty levied on every bottle of table wine it is hard to see how the £1.99 bottle survives, but it does.

In this transitional year before the single European market, why bother with bargains at all when duty on wine is surely to be abolished?

So far there appears to be little or no agreement between zero or minimally duty-rated wine countries such as Iberia, Italy, Germany and France, and top duty payers such as the UK.

Each country is plainly holding out for whatever Brussels bargains it can get, although Denmark did the decent thing last year by cutting its excise duty on wine by 12 per cent, with another 40 per cent cut due this spring. Isn't it time our chancellor followed suit?

Perhaps Norman Lamont feels that raising the duty-free personal allowance from January 1 1993 to a hefty 90 litres of wine, 20 litres of fortified wine and 10 litres of spirits is all that is necessary. And given that the government receives a vast revenue from drink, I doubt whether the situation will change.

It is unlikely the Chancellor will cut duty in his Budget on Tuesday, so my advice is to console yourself with a pre-Budget bargain bottle.

Top of my March list is Hugh Ryman's extraordinarily good £2.99 duo from Hungary. Mr Ryman was trained in Australia and France — at his father's La Jaubertie Bergerac property.

Faced with costly, frost-affected 1991 French sauvignon and chardonnay grapes, Mr Ryman looked elsewhere in Europe.

Bulgaria and Hungary are the two best eastern European wine-producing countries, and with Bulgarian wines distributed widely here, Hungary must have looked the most tempting option.

The 1991 pair, a sauvignon and chardonnay from the Gyöngyös Estate, 70 kilometres northeast of Budapest, are staggeringly good. Not only is the full, herbaceous gooseberry and whitecurrant-like sauvignon the best Hungarian wine I have ever tasted, but it can also stand comparison with the better sauvignons of France.

The chardonnay, with its positive lemon, grapefruit and pineapple fruit, is, if anything, more Australian in style.

Priced at £2.99 each and available at Thresher, Wine Rack, Peter Dominic and Bottoms Up from March 16, this superb Hungarian pair should not be missed.

Go to Sainsbury's now for the splendid, non-vintage Vin de Pays de Cucugnan from Val d'Orbieu, selling fast at £1.99. With its 11.5 per cent alcohol and bright, spicy, rustic taste, Cucugnan may not be the greatest Midi red you have ever tasted, but it will be one of the cheapest.

Also good value, if you take advantage of the £5.88 two-bottle March promotion, is Sainsbury's zesty, pickled plum-like Barbera d'Asti. At a time when it may seem rash to drink Italian wines after illegal levels of methyl isothiocyanate were found in Tadiello wines stocked by Marks & Spencer, Spar and others. Sainsbury's has sensibly sought to boost Italian wine sales by discounting. Look out, too, for its rich, nutty, apricot-like Bianco di Custoza, a top-notch Italian white at £2.94 a bottle again provided you buy two bottles in the March promotion.

At Victoria Wine, mad March specials include the excellent Chilean 1991 Rowan Brook Sauvignon Blanc reduced to £2.99 from £3.75 until April 1. This zingy, flowering currant-like sauvignon is still one of the best Chilean whites available and will make a good aperitif, and white meat or fish wine.

Victoria Wine also has two bargain basement clarets, both selling out fast — a 1986 Château Mayne Boyer (a Côte de Blaye) at £2.99 and a 1985 Château Brun Labrie £3.99 — on offer this month. They have been reduced to the equivalent of £2.60-a-bottle, if you buy two and thus get a third one free.

The best of Asda's March wine madness is its copycat Safeway reduction on the delectable Hardy's Premium Red and Premium White duo, now reduced from £3.49 to £2.99, only until Monday.

Finally, that mistreated wine consumer, the half-bottle drinker, should check out Jusserini & Brooks's French half-bottle white and red cases this month priced at £89 for a case of 24 half bottles. The case includes an excellent 1986 cru bourgeois claret and 1987 Châteauneuf. The white is marginally less stylish, but offers two white burgundies and a Pouilly Fumé.

BEST BUYS

- **1991 Oak Vale Vineyard Sauvignon Blanc** *Majestic Wine Warehouses and Wizard Wine, reduced from £4.75 to £3.99*
  Heaps better than the tiring '90 vintage, try Oak Vale's elegant, easy-going, flowering currant-like fruit.
- **1990 Church Road McDonald Winery Chardonnay** *Oddbins £6.99*
  This new Oddbins arrival is a typically rich, nutty Hawke's Bay New Zealand chardonnay with good balance and acidity.
- **1990 Martinborough Vineyard Chardonnay** *Oddbins £9.99; Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver St West, Colchester, Essex. £8.99*
  Fed up with economising? Then splash out on the deep, fine, nutty fruit and elegant, herbaceous, almost burgundian palate of this top New Zealand chardonnay.
- **1988 Raimat Tempranillo, Coster del Segre** *Oddbins £5.99; The Victoria Wine Company £5.99, down from £6.55; Thresher £6.65*
  Too expensive for what it is. But Raimat's no-expense-spared winery in northeast Spain has produced a dark, classic, firm spicy wine with good oaky flavours, but lacking a little in fruit.

NATIONAL BREAKDOWN

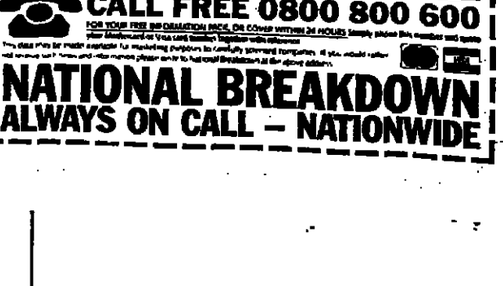
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EVENTS

LONDON

☐ **Sailing weekend:** Youngsters can try sailing on the Olympic-sized pool at the National Dinghy Show, under the guidance of the Royal Yachting Association. More than 70 different dinghies are on show, including a young person's 2.3m Optimist. Talks, videos and an RYA information desk.
Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, Ledrington Road, SE19 (081-778 0131). Today 10am-6pm, tomorrow 10am-5.30pm. £4.50, child £1.50.

☐ **Wheel fun:** Cycling and outdoor activity for enthusiasts of all ages at the Cyclex exhibition. Latest mountain, racing and touring bikes, plus BMX. Rollerblade and stunt riding displays and demonstrations, competitions, sports personalities.
Grand Hall, Olympia, W14 (071-603 2141). Today 9.30am-6pm, tomorrow 9.30am-5pm. £6, child £4.

☐ **Battersea screening:** A Walt Disney triple bill at the Clapperboard Club for children next Saturday with three *Winnie the Pooh* films. Also next Saturday, as part of the Storytelling festival, Hugh Lupton tells Russian tales for children aged eight and over.
Battersea Arts Centre, Old Town Hall, Lavender Hill, SW11 (071-223 2223). Sat Mar 14. Films: 2.30pm. £2.50, child £1 plus £3 membership. Russian tales: 3.30pm. £6, child £5.

☐ **Polka performances:** Two shows at the Children's Theatre: the spring production of *Androcles and the Lion*, adapted by Bernard Kops and suitable for children over seven, and the Polkettes play *The Glasshouse*, which is entered for the Royal National Theatre Youth Challenge competition.
Polka Theatre, 240 The Broadway, SW19 (081-543 4888). "Androcles", today and Sat 14 2pm and 5.30pm. Mar 21, 2.30pm. £4.50. The Glasshouse. Mar 10-14; Tues-Fri 7.30pm, Sat 8.30pm. Admission by donation.

☐ **Tricycle for the tiny:** "In-tent" — a show for the very young about celebrating special days.
Tricycle Theatre for Children, 269 Kilburn High Road, NW6 (071-328 1000). Sat Mar 14, 11.30am and 2pm. £2.25, child £1.25. Booking necessary.

NATIONWIDE

☐ **Aldeburgh celebration:** More than 1,500 pupils from schools throughout Suffolk take part in a series of evening concerts; choral and instrumental ensembles, dance, drama and jazz, culminating in a "last night of the proms" spectacular on March 14. Suitable for children of all ages, and parents.
Snape Maltings Concert Hall, Aldeburgh, Suffolk (0728 453543). Mon-Sat, 7pm. £2.50, child £1.50. Contact the box office for details of particular performances.

☐ **Arundel leapfrogs:** Frog-orientated family entertainments, including craft sessions and competitions.
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Mill Road, Arundel, West Sussex (0903 883355). Sat and Sun Mar 14-15, 9.30am-5pm. £3.50, child £1.75.

☐ **Taunton fliers:** Young ornithologists should enjoy the three new



Barn owls display their hunting skills in Taunton

RSPB films, particularly *Barn owl — bird of darkness*, and *Flying for gold — feathered athletes*.
Brewhouse Theatre and Arts Centre, Taunton, Som (0823 283244). Tues, Wed, 5pm and 7.45pm. £3.50, student/child £2.

☐ **Belting horses:** See the magnificent horse stables, now home to 20 shire horses, at the re-opened Whitbread Hop Farm. Many new species at the animal village and flying demonstrations by falconers.
Whitbread Hop Farm, Beltring, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent (0622 872068). Daily 10am-6pm, last entry 5pm. £4.25, child £3.

☐ **Stevenage pets:** Chance for youngsters to get advice on training the family pet. The demonstration coincides with "Pet Parade" — an entertaining look at pet keeping from the Stone Age to the present.
Stevenage Museum, St George's Way, Stevenage, Herts (0438 354292). Demonstration Sat, Mar 14, 10.30am-noon. Exhibition until mid-July.

☐ **Woburn dolls:** Thirty stalls sell a range of dolls, dolls' houses, fixtures and fittings.
Woburn Abbey, Beds (0525 290666). Tomorrow 10am-6pm. £1.80, accompanied child free.

☐ **York river races:** Head of the river race on the Ouse, with 160 crews in eights, fours, pairs and sculls taking part.
York City Rowing Club, West Esplanade, Lendal Bridge, York. Sat, Mar 14. First race noon. Viewing free.

JUDY FROSHAUG

At a club for all the family, children as well as adults can work out in the gym. **Lee Rodwell** reports

Olympic stars in weighting

Lucy Gibbons has finished her aerobics class. Now the ten-year-old is working out with weights, pushing and pulling her way around the circuit like a pro. Her mother, Elizabeth, and her stepfather, Neil, are on the far side of the huge, hangar-like building, pedalling away on state-of-the-art electronic cycles.

"At first I couldn't do this very well," Lucy says, getting off the shoulder press and moving on to one of the sit-up boards. "But now I can and it's fun."

Lucy is joined by a group of children who have just finished a Saturday morning squash coaching session. Another ten-year-old, Michael Rowe, stops mid sit-up to give his verdict on the surroundings. "It's great here. I like the swimming pool and the juice bar. And especially these weights."

Although weight training has become increasingly popular with adults seeking fitness rather than Mr Universe muscles, it has not, until now, been an activity for children. But the recently opened St Albans Health and Racket Club in Hertfordshire has installed a junior circuit for eight to 14-year-olds and the children love it.

The place is something of an eye-opener: 58,000 sq ft containing two swimming pools, eight squash courts, two aerobics halls and an array of toning machines and body-building equipment. Much of the equipment and the décor is bright pink or blue.

The club is the first to be opened in Europe by a South African company, The Health and Racket Club Group, which spent £3 million buying the site of the St Albans Squash Club after it had gone into receivership. A further £1.6 million has been spent on refurbishment. The group has ten similar clubs in South Africa, but the British market has already proved to be significantly different.

Jeff Law, the general manager, says: "In South Africa about 60 per cent of our members are single people. Here, 65 per cent are family people. We've also found that British families spend longer per visit. Sunday mornings have been our busiest time and some families are spending four hours at a time here.

"It's partly because people like the idea of having everything under one roof, and it's also somewhere the whole family can go. There aren't many places like that."

Junior members who are too young to be let loose on their own can be left, free of charge, in the Jungle Gym, the junior club that caters for children aged between one month and 14 years. Apart from changing mats and bouncing cradles for the babies, the club is stocked with toys for toddlers, and there are hand-held computer games and videos to keep older children amused.

The staff, most of whom have nursery nurse training, also organise a range of activities for the children from mini-gymnastics to face-painting and story-telling. The supervisor is Trasee Lyons,



Trasee Lyons: usually busy

who says: "We are busiest at weekends, but we have some regulars who are here every day. One woman had a baby a year and a half ago and she says that until she started coming here she was simply stuck at home eating herself into a coma. But the club has given her a new lease of life. We have a lot of mothers like that."

The club operates on the theme-park principle: once you have paid your membership fees everything else is free. Only a visit to the Cherry Trees beauty clinic or the sports shop or the juice bar or restaurant will cost extra. Family membership (two adults and up to three children) costs an initial £500, plus £110 a month. A cheaper long-term option is the ten-year Family Gold membership for £2,000.

The family approach seems to be working. Demand for the Junior Club daycare has meant the number of staff has had to be quadrupled. Mr Law plans to increase the range of activities for children during half-terms and holidays.

The existing courses, such as squash coaching, junior aerobics and swimming lessons, are already popular. But the big hit has been the junior weight training circuit, with its scaled down version of adult fixed weights machines.

Staff are always on hand to show the children how to use the machines, which include a miniature exercise bike and the latest keep-fit gadget, a step. Children's bones are still growing and it could be dangerous if exercise is not done under proper supervision. All the equipment was specially made and imported from South Africa.

"We know that when parents come along they are keen for their children to take part as well," Mr Law says. "That's one of the reasons why we installed the junior circuit. The weights are very light so they won't build he-man muscles. But they do have a fun element.

"Children often lose interest very quickly with other kinds of exercise, but the junior circuit is exciting and gives them a sense of achievement. Now we are planning to produce special work-out cards for the kids so that they can each have their own personal programme just like the adults do.

"But in one sense the circuit is an educational tool: we're trying to teach the children about the benefits of exercise and we believe it helps them discover what we already know, that fitness really can be fun."

● *St Albans Health and Racket Club, Cell Barnes Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire (0727 810899).*

● *To discover exercise facilities available for children in your area, contact your local leisure centre or call the National Association of Health and Exercise Teachers (Asset) on 071-580 4451.*

DES JENSEN



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WARM and caring widower, 45, N.W. England, professional background, no ties, seeks attractive educated lady to share a loving family life Please Reply to Box No 7548

WARM unconventional vegan lady (40's), seeks like-minded man. On the road less travelled. Photo please. Reply Box 7547

WELL BORN lady knight needed to rescue distressed country gentlemen in S.W. (He is tall, charming, loves women, late fifties) Reply Box No 7606

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My budget will be sweet music to a gullible stock

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

I may be adding two and two and getting more than four, but I am now convinced that a couple of apparently unrelated phenomena are in fact inextricably linked. On the one hand, I have noticed that the amount of manure that the horses drop after eating their hearty winter breakfasts has been on the increase.

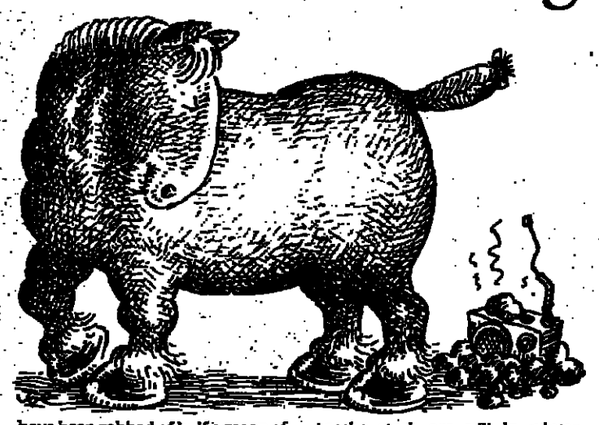
I could give you exact figures, so close have I become to the issue. It is, after all, very easy for them to do the dropping, but it is I who have to follow them every day with the shovel. When the shovelfuls start to mount, my lower back very quickly notices.

I had been unable to account for this laxative upheaval, having explored every possibility from soiled feedstuff to dirty manger, until one day I re-tuned the stable radio from the station offering current affairs to one playing music. Equine bowels instantly resumed a sweet repose; the daily shovelling diminished. Of course, stockmen have always believed that a little music gives a boost to a lactating cow, but I had never heard of the reverse effect, especially in horses. And so I listened very carefully over several days to discover what it was that might be upsetting them.



I can arrive at only one conclusion: it is the forthcoming general election. I know there may be one or two Tories clinging to slender majorities who are suffering similar symptoms to my horses, but I must insist, for the peace of the farmyard, that the election is soon over and done with. I am even having to keep the radio on minus volume in case the cows should overhear and lose their contentment: and to save us from a holocaust, I am fitting the pigs with ear-plugs.

On second thoughts, it may not be the election at all. It might just be the Budget. Farm animals don't like budgets. They know that budgets invariably mean a sneaky bit less feed in the manger. When the farmer has been doing his sums, which he usually does around this time of year, they know that the reserves of winter fodder are getting low and that corners may have to be cut to see them through until the fresh grass grows in the spring. That is why they are suspicious; for, all of a sudden, they will find that, in a flash of generosity, the farmer has dished out an extra forkful or two. Only later, when the excitement has died down, do they realise they have been robbed of half a scoop of oats. If this sounds familiar, you will begin to understand why budgets make animals nervous.



I may decide to upstage Mr Lamont's efforts on Tuesday by announcing a budget of my own. As the stock are still in winter quarters, it would be quite easy for me to rise to my feet on Tuesday afternoon and announce what the next few months hold in store. Except that I cannot make up my mind. I have a slight inclination to court popularity in the hope of good behaviour in the coming months, so I have been eyeing my reserves with a view to organising a giveaway. Take the mangels, for instance: the heap is looking hardly smaller than when we started it just before Christmas, and since I can reckon on spring having safely arrived by the first of May, I think I shall announce a doubling of the mangel ration. That will have them cheering.

But there will be a price to pay. My precious stack of hay is fast dwindling and will be gone in a week. I have a reserve of meadow hay but that will last me through only if we have no sudden turn in the weather, when chilly stock might need extra feeding. So I shall be prudent and announce "no immediate cut" in hay rations. They will like me for that.

But I am going to have to take a firm fiscal line with sugar beet nuts. Quite frankly, I have fed them all and cannot afford more. Any reduction would be a highly unpopular move and would certainly lead to an unacceptable loading on my muck shovel. So I shall con them: I shall announce that we are becoming a more caring farmyard, in which responsible behaviour is rewarded with sugar beet nuts. If the sheep stop barging through hurdles, they will get their ration: if the bullock stops bullying the heifer, he too will be rewarded. As I know full well that none of them are capable of living in harmony and obedience for ten minutes, my ploy will work and I shall never have to pay up.

I shall come out of my budget acclaimed for being a caring and responsible farmer who showered them with mangels (of which I have plenty) and it will be weeks before they discover they have been robbed of their nuts (of which I have none). Eat your heart out, Norman Lamont.

Aiming high at moving targets

With his finger on the trigger, Brian Clarke finds clay pigeon shooting takes a keen eye



Learning to be a hot shot: Brian Clarke takes aim, watched by instructor Don Barrett, at Stanhill Court Hotel in Horley, Surrey

Like most lads brought up on a diet of Westerns featuring John Wayne blasting daylight through baddies and holes through flipped coins, I never once doubted my ability to shoot.

The fact that I had never even handled a gun did not shake the quiet conviction that I'd be a natural when it came to using one.

If ever the need were to come up — not in some Home Counties *High Noon*, of course, but in a sporting context — I knew I'd be able to do it. Up would pop the target, round would come the gun, blam-blam, no problem.

And so, when I fell in with a group who turned out to be shooting mad, I proved easy game. With the advice of an expert friend and at a cost of around £300, I became one of the 800,000 people in England and Wales who owns a shotgun — and an occasional popper at clay pigeons.

This year, exactly 100 years after the founding of the Inanimate Bird Shooting Association and the emergence of clay shooting as an organised sport, is perhaps not the best time to go public on it, I know.

But I was awful. When I fired at clays, I missed them. And not just occasionally, but mostly. It took very few outings to show that not only would I miss the proverbial barn door, but in all probability the building of which it was a part. Some larger barns — provided they stood still — I might hit. It was a severe wound to my ego.

What I had not appreciated, of course, is how tricky clays can be. For example, they move out of your sights, just when you've got them in — if you can see them in the first place.

They can come (and go) and dip (and rear) from all points of the compass. They travel at speeds of up to 100mph. They are flat, like saucers, and often show themselves side-on. It is these challenges and the call they make upon the reflexes that have led to the sport's popularity. It also enables the skills of shooting to be acquired and used by those for whom the shooting of live game has little appeal.

The Clay Pigeon Shooting Association, the modern successor to the Inanimate Bird Shooting Association, has more than 25,000 members and 750 affiliated clubs. But there are probably ten times that number of regular shots and twice that number of clubs: mostly small, some large, some open to anyone, others private.

Clay shooting is a year-round sport, with small competitions going on somewhere most weekends, and with a national calendar of more than 50 major events.

This year the CPSA has added a number of centenary events to its usual annual list. The next of these is the CPSA Centenary English Skeet Championship at Northampton on March 14-15.

All 15 of the sport's main variations will feature in the championship programmes, with each discipline having its own characteristics and making different demands on the competitor.

Getting started in clay shooting is not expensive, although anyone preparing to buy a gun first needs to acquire a licence. Licences are issued by the police and security requirements are strict. All applicants must expect their own arrangements to be inspected.

Most guns used in clay shooting are double-barrelled 12 bores. No gun should be bought without expert guidance and anyone remotely interested in serious shooting should take lessons, which will cost £30-£60 an hour.

There are some short-cuts through all of this, which can give a flavour of what clay shooting is about. One that has become popular is the "corporate day".

Many of the larger shooting schools offer packages to groups of individuals or companies, which include loan of a gun, some instruction and the opportunity to fire at clays, usually in pleasant surroundings with good food and facilities laid on. Some even offer the hire of a country house with staff by the day or the weekend.

At the end of such a session — and certainly at the end of a course of professional lessons — most beginners should be able to hit a barn, if not a barn door. Although some may first, like me, require it to stand still.

● *For more information contact the CPSA, 107 Epping New Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex IG9 5TQ (081-505 6221). The Centenary English Skeet Championship (March 14-15) will be held at the Northampton Shooting Ground's Spwell Range.*

Events

☐ **Nottingham birds in close-up:** Look at the scientific side of birdwatching in the company of a British Ornithology Trust ringer.
Alexandra Lodges, Northern Drive, Bestwood Country Park, Arnold, nr Nottingham (0602 670042). Tomorrow, 9am-noon. Free.

☐ **Cheltenham Gold Cup National Hunt racing festival:** Three days of races including the Cheltenham Gold Cup on March 12 at 3.30pm.
Cheltenham Racecourse, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire (0242 513014). Tues-Thurs, 2.15pm. £7-£40.

☐ **East Anglian labrador retriever show:** 400 canines compete in 27 classes, with winners of the qualifying classes going on through to Crufts.
Wood Green Animal Shelter, King's Bush Farm, London Road, Godmanchester, Cambridgeshire (0763 243005). Today, 10am. Spectators free.

☐ **Harrogate trees:** One-day course on choosing and caring for garden trees. Nick Fforde discusses planting, staking and pruning techniques and looks at tree varieties for all sizes of garden.
Harlow Car Botanical Gardens, Crag Lane, Harrogate, North Yorkshire (0423 565418). Tues, 1.30-4pm, £8. Advance booking only.

☐ **Ripon ramble:** Easy eight-mile walk led by Les Stewart via Witch o' the Woods and Studley Park.
High Cleugh, Mallorie Park Drive, Ripon, North Yorkshire (off B6265). Today, noon. Free.

☐ **RHS flowers:** Royal Horticultural Society early spring show featuring early camellia, rhododendron, daffodil and ornamental plant competitions plus nursery trade stands.
Royal Horticultural Society Halls, Vincent Square, London (071-834 4333). Tues 11am-7pm, Wed 10am-5pm. Tues £4, Wed £2.

☐ **Lancashire conservation:** Helpers invited to hawthorn scrub to create a better habitat for butterflies. Wear good footwear and work gloves.
Leighton Moss Nature Reserve, Myer's Farm, Silverdale, Lancashire (0524 701601). Today, 10am. £1.

☐ **Clwyd birds:** RSPB-led high tide birdwatch giving the opportunity to see hundreds of waders such as redshank and oystercatcher.
Point of Air Smugglers Inn car park, Talacre, Clwyd (051-648 4371). Tomorrow, 10.30am-12.30pm. Free.

☐ **Wisbech swans farewell:** Talk on the mystery of swans' migration, followed by a walk to look at the wintering wild swans about to set off to their Arctic breeding grounds.
Wildfowl & Wetlands Centre, Pintail House, Hundred Foot Bank, Welney, nr Wisbech, Cambridgeshire (0353 860711). Today and tomorrow, 10.30am and 2.30pm. £2.70, OAPs £2, child £1.35.

☐ **Cambridge fly-tying:** One-day course with Henry Lowe offering practical help with the intricacies of making and using flies for trout fishing.
Fishing Lodge, Grafham Water, West Perry, nr Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (0480 810531). March 15, 10am-4pm. £15 inc. lunch (advance booking only).

Gardens to visit

☐ **Kent:** Weeks Farm. This 1½-acre garden, which demonstrates the possibilities of gardening on a badly drained, heavy Wealden clay, features double mixed borders and views.
Egerton Forstal; 3.5m E of Headcorn. Tomorrow, 2-6pm. £1.50, child 50p.

☐ **Midlothian:** Prestonhall. Snowdrops in extensive parklands and woodland. Fine collection of trees.
Pathead; S of Dalkeith, signed from A68; SE from Edinburgh. Tomorrow, 2-5pm. £1, child free.

☐ **Sussex:** Denmans. Walled garden planted for all-season appearance by John Brookes: includes a glasshouse area for tender plants.
Denmans Lane, Fontwell; 5m E of Chichester; turn S off A27 at Denmans Lane. Open daily 9am-5pm. £1.95, child £1.

● **Town vs. country:** Our request for your views on this debate provoked an overwhelming response. Don't miss Out of Town next week, when we will print a selection of your letters.

Compromise of birdland

FEATHER REPORT

I was thinking about Lord Kitchener while looking at tufted ducks the other day. It was Kitchener who said: "We have to make war as we must, and not as we would like to." This is as true of the battles for conservation as in military struggle.

When you are talking about a conservation organisation that is conspiring to put up 340 houses on a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) this is doubly important, because the development is bang in urban London. It is clear that we are deep in compromise country.

The site is Barn Elms, Barnes, southwest London, loved by local-patch enthusiasts. There cannot be a London twitcher who has not picked up a bird or two here. No one can claim to have experienced cold if he or she has not spent an hour in the kniving winds of a winter reservoir peering at an enigmatic blob constantly appearing and disappearing that might or might not be a scoter.

However, Barn Elms reservoir is going to change: and the Wildfowl and Wetland Trust is deeply and irrevocably involved in the project to erect all these houses on metropolitan open land: a commodity scarce enough, in all conscience.

The reservoir will fall out of use with the completion of the London water ring main, leaving this splendid birdy place behind. One's first thought must be: why not leave it as it is? I had a splendid walk there: tufties and shovelers and gadwall and pochard and teal and a couple of goldeneye: not great rarities, but a wonderfully warming sight on a bright morning.

The context made it still more splendid: I was, after all, just 15 minutes' walk from the grand prix traffic of Hammersmith Broadway. A sparrowhawk flew overhead, chased off by a hooligan crow: there was the sudden yaffle of a green woodpecker feeling a touch of spring.



Urban crow and sparrowhawk

But the reservoir is a century old: the water is kept in by 8ft-high banks. These are past their sell-by date, and engineers say the water level must be lowered as soon as the reservoir is decommissioned.

Change is inevitable. The new scheme, for a wildfowl centre like Slimbridge in Gloucestershire, operated by the WWT, has won planning permission, and will go ahead. The idea is to make a place for wild birds.

The four oblong reservoirs will turn into a big lake, with smaller lagoons and ponds. Vegetation, islands, wiggly bays and promontories will all be introduced. The site will become more attractive to breeding birds, while remaining, it is hoped, as good as ever for wintering ducks. But the price will be these 340 "housing units" to pay for everything else.

The project calls into strident action two equal and opposite conservation errors. These are the No-Compromise Error, and the Error of the Over-Eager Capitulation. The latter is the more pernicious: a craven readiness to give in to moneyed and political interests. This is disguised as readiness to see the other fellow's side. But it reduces conservation to a form of tokenism.

The capitulators feel they are adopting the wise middle course, but they are not. They are playing into the hands of non-conservation interests. Conservationists should be stubborn and stiff-necked: the RSPB has refused lovely money from companies that have acted in flagrant anti-conservation fashion. However, absolute refusal to bend conserves nothing, alas. The Kitchener dictum must be followed: but always in the knowledge that, while total rigidity gets you nowhere, conservation needs all the backbone it can get.

With Barn Elms, we have, I think, a compromise that will work. This project should be an absolute cracker, in fact, but conservation must remain ever-reluctant to make sacrifices. Wars, Churchill said after Dunkirk, are not won by evacuations.

SIMON BARNES

● *Entrance to Barn Elms, for "serious birdwatchers", by permit obtainable on site from March 14.*

● **What's about:** *Birders — first migrants arriving: sand martins, wheatears, especially on south coast. Twitchers: pine bunting in Dagenham, Kent; golden eagle at Garthwaite reservoir, north Yorkshire. Details from Birdline, 0891 700222.*



Mating game: March is the breeding time for the common toad

Toad takes a trip

According to Wendy Dickson, a wildlife enthusiast living at Lesbury, in Northumberland, the common toad (*Bufo bufo*) is not very good at public relations.

"They are not the most endearing creatures. I am fond of them, but not in a soppy way. Even Toad of Toad Hall was a bombastic character, wasn't he?"

Ms Dickson became involved with the amphibians last year when someone telephoned her about dead toads on a road close to Alnmouth golf course.

"Toads always return to breed at the same pond they were spawned in. Unfortunately, the route they take often involves risking their lives," Ms Dickson says.

At the start of the breeding season — usually March, but it depends on the temperature — the toad lumbers out of hibernation and treks to the wetland or pond of his tadpole youth. They always travel at night and their journey can often take several nights.

A combination of nocturnal travelling and having the appearance of a little blob of mud on the road makes a toad vulnerable to car wheels. Also, they tend not to leap, but move in a slow, waddling, creeping fashion. Notices have been erected to warn drivers about the toads at Alnmouth, but Ms Dickson is not sure they will help: "Sadly, there is always a small, sadistic element of the population that takes pleasure in squashing toads."

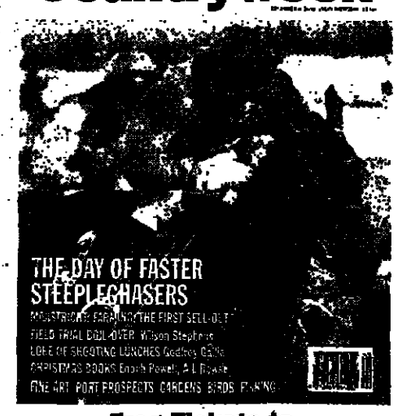
Toads are browner, fatter and larger than a frog; they look dry and their skin has raised, wart-like bumps. Frogs are greener with slightly moist skins.

Toads go into the water only to breed, spending the rest of their lives on land. Less keen on leaping, they rely on successful camouflage, sinking into the ground and pretending they are not there.

JOANNA GIBBON

● *For toad-spotting information, contact your local wildlife trust, national or local park. Local wildlife trusts can be found by contacting the RSNC, The Green, Witham Park, Waterside South, Lincoln, LN5 7JR (0522 544400).*

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WHERE TO WALK



Net profit: shrimping is a popular activity on the Deal and Sandwich foreshore

The usual way to walk around the Deal and Sandwich area is with a bag of golf clubs across the shoulders. But for those who are not aficionados of the great game, there is still plenty of good healthy exercise to be had among the dunes and along the foreshore.

From Deal to Sandwich, along the Saxon Shore Way, is about five miles. There is a pay-and-display car park near Deal pier, but it is probably better to drive to the end of the promenade and park the car near the site of what used to be Sandown Castle. There is virtually nothing to be seen of the ruins now, so head north along the public footpath skirting the edge of the Royal Cinque Ports golf course.

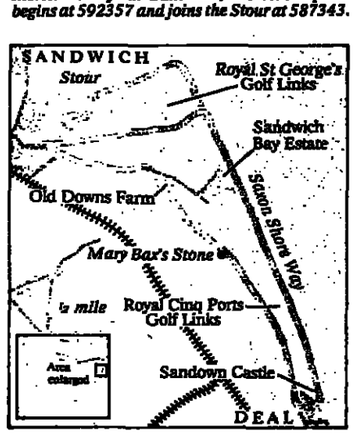
Continue along the coast for about another 1½ miles, past the private Sandwich Bay estate, and you will come to another golf course, Royal St George's. The path then turns sharply left across the course. Be wary of errant golf balls; most players are well-mannered and will allow walkers the right of way, but occasionally they may be unsighted. The path crosses a cut and then follows the so-called Green Wall to the Quays, where a number of boats are moored, and where there is car parking only a few steps away from Sandwich town centre.

If you have the energy, or need to return to where you left your car, take the road back east, marked to the golf courses, until you come to a toll gate leading to the housing estate. At that point turn right, leaving Old Downs Farm to your left, and join the ancient road between the two towns; at present badly potholed, the road is to be repaired in time to take the heavy traffic at next year's Open Championship. On the right is Mary Bax's stone, commemorating a local girl who is said to have been foully murdered by a foreign visitor.

The road continues down the west side of the Royal Cinque Ports course and past a rather good pub, the Chequers. On the very edge of town, turn left for a couple of hundred yards and you are back at Sandown Castle.

For those who want something shorter, a circular walk from Deal simply follows the edge of the golf course (about four miles). Or you can start from Sandwich, beginning at the Quays and following the Green Wall and the Saxon Shore Way until you reach the coast. Turn left, and after about three-quarters of a mile another path turns inland, past New Downs Farm, and then follows the river Stour back into town. This route is about five miles.

● *On Ordnance Survey Pathfinder series Sheet TR 25/35 (Sandwich and Deal): Sandown Castle is at 543376. The point at which the Saxon Shore Way turns inland to Sandwich is 586359, and the end of the Quays 583332. The toll gate is at 577351, Mary Bax's Stone at 565363. On the shorter walk from Sandwich, the return path begins at 592357 and joins the Stour at 587343.*





From fusillades to fish: today in Deal, the frontline town that fate spared, fishing boats are drawn up on the seafront shingle where once was array



BEST OF BRITAIN

DEAL and SANDWICH

England's historic 'invasion coast' now has only golfers to withstand. John Young reports

Take the Dover road from London but do not rush to catch the ferry to the Continent. Turn left instead, past where the white cliffs fall away into St Margaret's Bay, and on into the little town of Deal which, though you would hardly believe it now, was one of England's great naval bases and a vital stronghold in the defences of what became known as "the invasion coast".

Or take the road to Canterbury. By all means stop to see the cathedral and the rest, but then go one better than the pilgrims and continue east to Sandwich, once the foremost port in the kingdom.

Today history sits lightly upon both towns, tucked away in a corner of England that modern tourism has largely overlooked. Their very names belie their past: the word "deal" speaks of bargaining and compromise, while as for "sandwich", the whole world knows what that is, thanks to John Montagu, the 4th earl, who is said to have demanded that slices of cold meat and bread be brought to the gaming tables so that he would not be interrupted by the call to dinner.

Curious though it may seem, the towns might be better known if they were in other, more fashionable parts of the country. If, perish the thought, Deal were somehow transported to, say, Cornwall, where it would not look out of place, it would quickly become another tourist honeypot.

Were Sandwich to be picked up and put down somewhere between Oxford and Stratford-on-Avon, sightseers would be queuing for admittance. After all, according to the architectural historian Sir Nikolaus Pevsner it is the most complete medieval town in Britain.

And yet both towns stand at the historic gateway to Britain, on land trampled over the centuries by warring armies. Julius Caesar is said to have made his first landfall at Walmer Green, on the southern edge of Deal. For nearly 900 years after the Norman conquest, during the threats from the Spanish Armada, Napoleon and Hitler, the inhabitants were all too well aware of being in the front line. Not for nothing was it known as the invasion coast.

So why should they have been sidestepped by today's invaders, the tourists? Because, it seems, they are too close, too accessible, for contemporary travellers rushing to be somewhere else.

But a stop, even for a few hours, brings its reward. Deal is remarkable in being a port without a harbour, providing an historic anchorage, the Downs, for ships waiting for a change of wind to carry them through the channel which runs between the shingle foreshore and the graveyard of the Goodwin Sands.

In 1539 Henry VIII commanded the building of three great fortresses at Walmer, Deal, and Sandown, a mile or so north. The last of these has long since fallen victim to the sea, but the others remain essentially intact.

Deal Castle makes no pretence to grandeur. It is a squat, maritime fortress; an austere, efficient war machine, with six inner and six outer bastions constructed to carry 120 guns. In the basement is an exhibition portraying the building of the castle as a product of the island race's fear of foreigners in general and, in Henry's case, disapproving European Catholic monarchs in particular.

Walmer Castle, built for the same purpose, is similar in design, but softened by its trees and gardens, the result of its conversion in the early 18th century to the official residence of the Lord Warden of the Cinque Ports. Holders of that title include William Pitt the Younger, the Duke of Wellington, W.H. Smith, who founded the bookstall chain and rose to become First Lord of the Admiralty and Secretary of State for War, Sir Winston Churchill, and the Queen Mother.

Of those, the Iron Duke seems to have been the most regular occupant. His rooms are open to the public and include the high desk where he worked standing up, and his mud-defying Wellington boots which, if patented, might have earned his family a fortune in royalties.

None of the castles was used for its original purpose, because the threatened invasion never materialised. However, in 1642 the towns were occupied by the parliamentary forces during the civil war, but in 1648, following the Kentish rising, they were taken by the royalists. Cromwell's forces laid siege, but the royalists were able to relieve Deal and Sandown by landing troops from the sea. Nevertheless, they were repulsed at Walmer, the castle surrendered, and shortly afterwards Deal and Sandown were recaptured, their last experience of active warfare.



Defensive symbol: Cinque Ports' shield

Walmer Castle's gardens were first laid out by William Pitt's niece, Lady Hester Stanhope. (The castle and gardens are open daily 10am-6pm from Good Friday until September 30, and 10am-4pm in winter, except when the Lord Warden is in residence.)

The same opening hours apply to Deal Castle. The town came into its own in the 17th century when silting of the river Stour meant that its great rival, Sandwich, could no longer function as a port. Deal became a regular haunt of the press gangs seeking unwilling recruits for the navy and as a centre for smuggling. It was from Deal that William Penn first sailed to America.

Today it is a peaceful town, with attractive narrow streets and a number of architecturally interesting buildings. The central area, around Middle Street, has been pedestrianised, and the restored peri houses and cottages we designated the first co servation area in Ke There is a museum maritime history, a two other museu housing, respective collections of Victoria and of 19th and ea 20th-century costumes

The Timeball Tow on the seafront, was bu in 1821 as one of a cha carrying semapho messages along the co about the doing smugglers, and contai a display of mari communications.

The five origi Cinque Ports — Hi tings, New Romney, Hyd Dover and Sandwich — we established by charter fro Edward I in 1278. Of the fi Sandwich, which had be chartered as a borough abo 50 years earlier, regarded its as the senior, the natural su cessor to the long abandon Roman port of Richborough.

Sandwich was the scene many royal comings and g ings. Richard I landed there



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Why some hoteliers think your child

Finding a country hotel willing to welcome children is no for parents to some private hotels and what the bi

British hoteliers have a curious attitude towards young children. Many regard them less favourably than dogs. While it seems to be acceptable to travel with a pet — and anything from heated kennels to gourmet food may be provided by a hotel — children often provoke a shock-horror response from the management at many establishments.

Why do hoteliers discourage children? Many say they are frightened they will run riot and that other guests will be driven away in disgust. In practice this is unlikely. One hotelier reported that he had more trouble from drunken adults than from children.

In truth, most adults who choose to take small children to a formal country house hotel (and pay a lot of money for the privilege) have civilised offspring who have no interest whatsoever in swinging from the chandeliers or using the antiques as target practice. If children are used to respecting valuables at home, they will do the same when they are out.

As for demanding special facilities and food, older children who are used to being taken out for meals have discerning enough palates to cope with most things on a hotel's menu. Even if they do demand sausages and beans the kitchen ought to be able to cope adequately.

When it comes to small babies that are not breast-fed, you need only hot water to enable you to sterilise the bottle and make up the baby's milk.

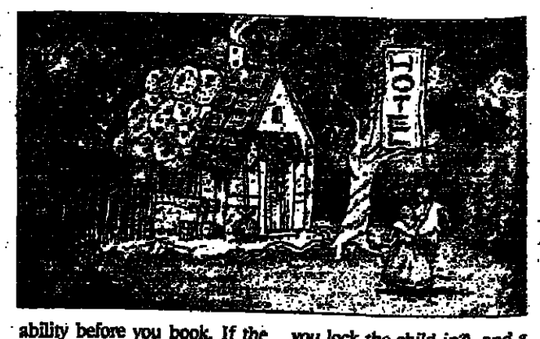
If you and your family want to be welcomed with enthusiasm and a cot, highchair, the offer of baby-sitting and entertainment, you will have to choose your hotel carefully. Some, particularly those belonging to the large groups, offer to accommodate children (up to the age of 19 in some cases) free provided they share your bedroom.

But beware; if you are unused to this sort of sleeping arrangement you may not take kindly to the lack of privacy or what can be cramped space.

So how do you go about finding a sympathetic hotel? And can you believe everything you read in the hotel guides?

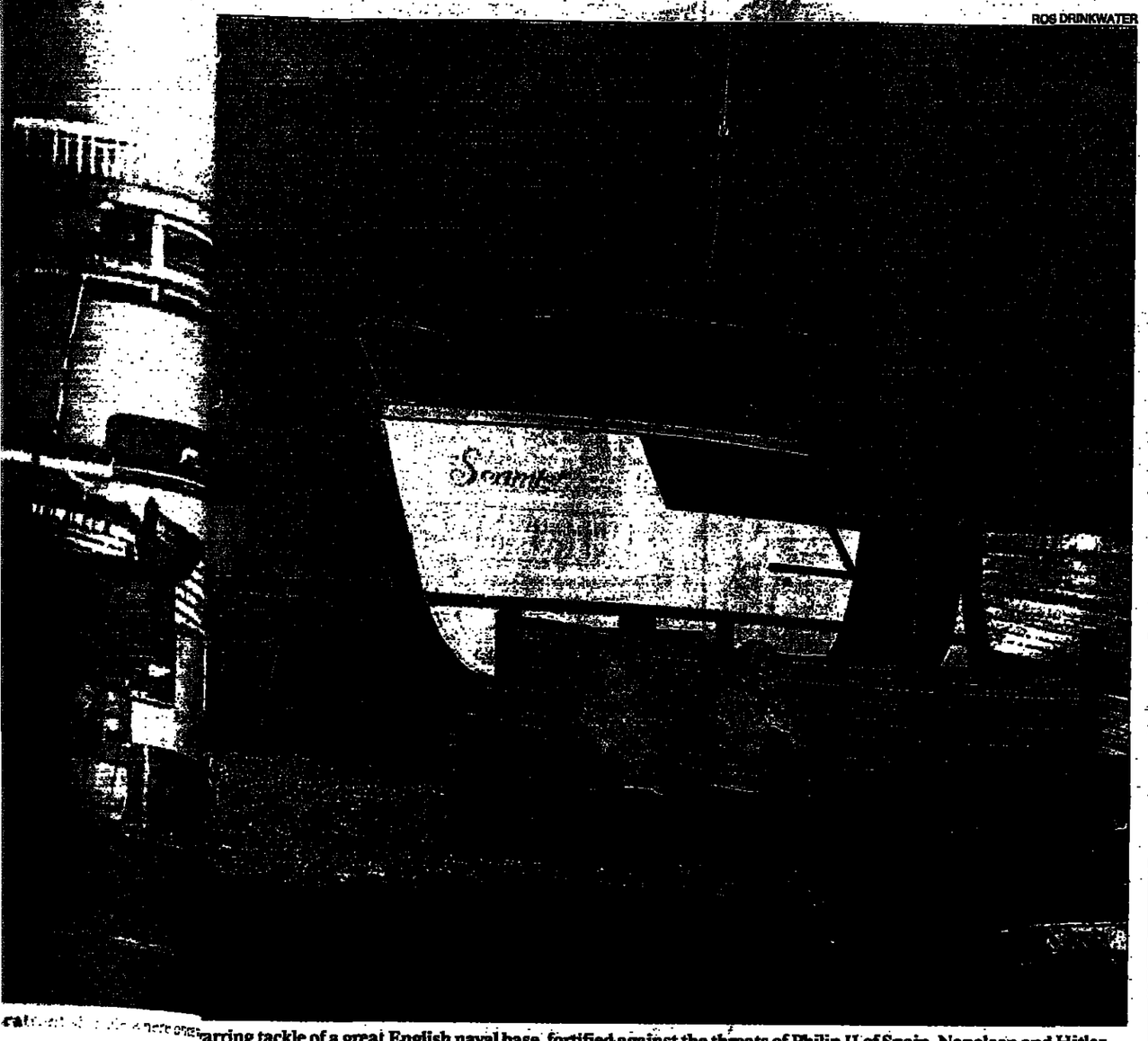
A hotel that says it welcomes children needs to provide more than a cot and highchair. When you arrive after a long drive the chances are your child will want food and want it now, not in an hour when the kitchen staff turns up.

There are several questions to ask to establish a hotel's suitability before you book. If the hotel says it provides an early supper, does this mean it will not let your child into the dining-room while you eat? It takes a brave child to stay in a hotel bedroom on its own (do you lock the child in?), and a even braver one to wande down in pyjamas to find you i the dining-room. Baby-listen ing often is not all it is made ou to be and usually involve relying on the receptionist



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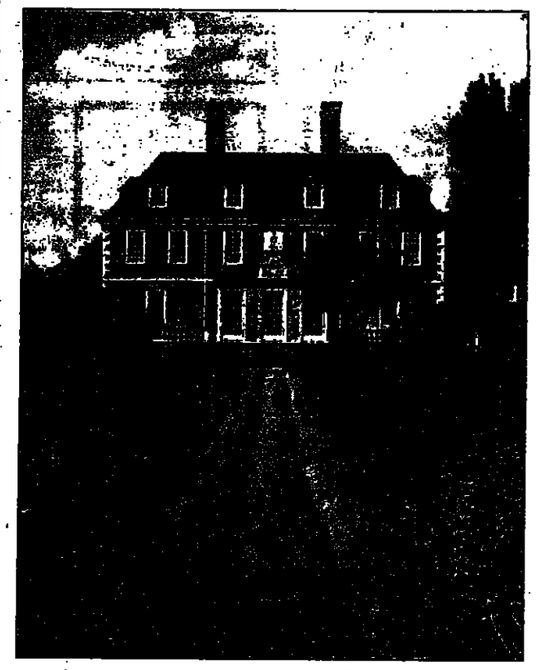


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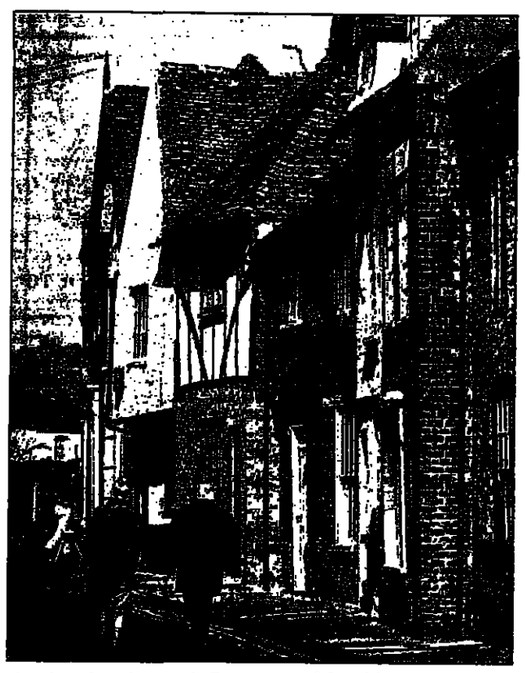
arring tackle of a great English naval base, fortified against the threats of Philip II of Spain, Napoleon and Hitler



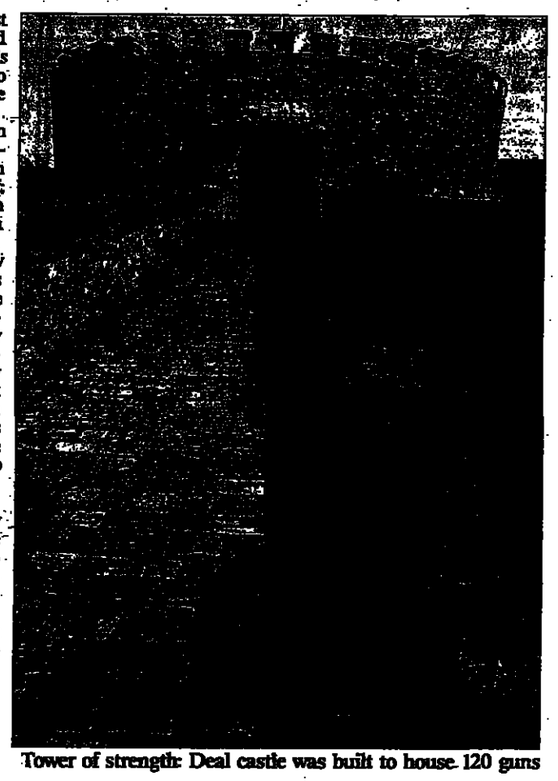
Toll of time: the medieval gatehouse at Sandwich contains what must be two of Britain's oldest "council houses"



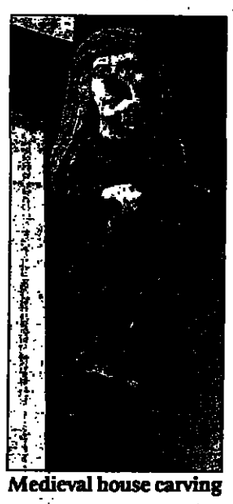
Showhouse: Lutyens's neo-Georgian Salutation at Sandwich



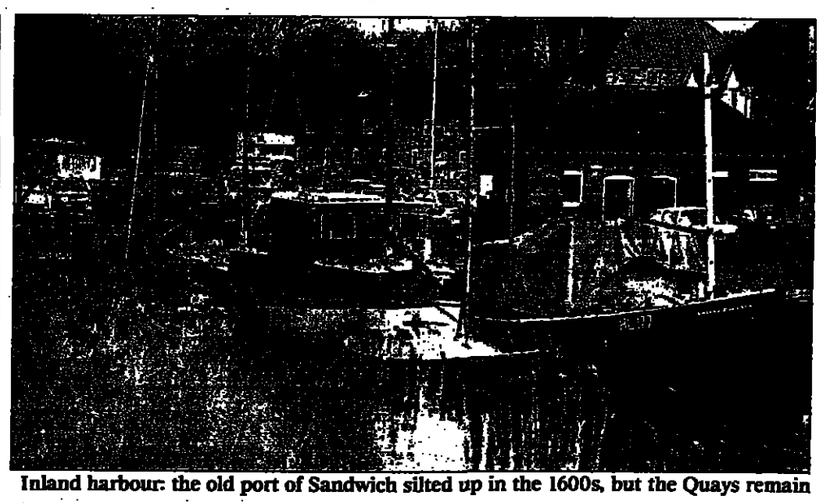
Passing view: St Peter's Street, one of the oldest in Sandwich



Tower of strength: Deal castle was built to house 120 guns



Medieval house carving



Inland harbour: the old port of Sandwich silted up in the 1600s, but the Quays remain



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return from the Crusades, Edward III and Henry V le it their point of embarkafor their adventures in nce. Thomas à Becket ed through on his way e to martyrdom.

later appeal to royal interion failed to prevent Sand's maritime demise. In 3, when silting was beginto ruin the harbour, abeth I was persuaded to e a visit. Despite elaborate parations, a great banquet the presentation of a gold paid for by the citizens, the en did nothing, and Sand was left to its fate.

he arrival of Huguenot refs from France brought a f prosperity, but the town ame literally a backwater: y the sea is about two miles y. In compensation, it re gloriously unspoilt, with row, winding streets and ens of listed medieval, lor and Georgian buildings. he most notable building is bably the old Guildhall, ch has survived some insene 20th-century additions. wonderful panelled courtn was built in 1579 and ained in use as such until last sitting of the magisss less than five years ago. tairs the council chamber, re the town council meets e a week, and the mayor's our, which contains, amother things, a complete list all the incumbents from 6, are also worth a visit.

here is a charming medigatehouse close to the ys, containing what must two of the oldest "council ses" in Britain.

the three churches in the the most notable is probSt Peter's, now redundant used for occasional funcs. A small museum conas a collection of toys from 0 onwards, but the whole n is effectively one large n air museum.

eal is a favourite spot ong sea fishing enthusiasts. the activity for which the a is known internationally is . The most famous of its ses is the Royal St rge's, designed by Dr dlaw Purves, an ophthalmic geon who is said to have sen the dunes outside Sandh as the site of a course which would match the best that his native Scotland could offer. The name of England's patron saint was chosen to denote the course's claim to be the St Andrew's of the south.

The club was founded in 1867 to provide the opportunity for gentlemen from London to enjoy "real" seaside golf; members were conveyed from the station by cab or, later, by a specially built tramway.

The club has made few concessions to change — it is one of only two clubs in the country which bar women — but it remains a splendidly challenging course with a resonant history. It is one of only seven courses in Britain, and the only one in the south, which take turns to stage the game's most prestigious event, the Open Championship, and is to play host again next year.

Although it zealously guards its exclusive image, the club welcomes competent visiting players by prior arrangement with the secretary.

The Royal Cinque Ports at Deal is another first rank course, which this year celebrates its centenary. A former captain, the late Bernard Darwin, golf correspondent of *The Times*, described it as one of the most testing courses he knew.

This club, too, has been the scene of a number of notable events, and is the venue of the annual Halford Hewitt championship, in terms of numbers the biggest in Britain, with 64 school old boys' societies each represented by ten-man teams.

Clive Greaves, the club secretary, and Gerald Watts, his opposite number at the Royal St George's, are aware that something of the old elitist image survives, and that the third course in the area, Prince's, may be perceived as more "democratic". But they are proud of their courses and happy that they should be enjoyed by visiting players. "As long as they abide by our rules, we love to see them," Mr Watts says. "But obviously we cannot have anyone and everyone turning up. Too many people would ruin things for everybody."

The same might well be said for the whole of this unpretentious little corner of England.

★ WHERE TO STAY ★

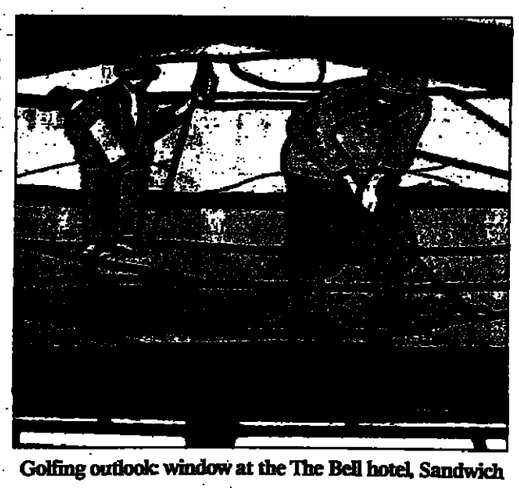
FOR historic reasons, south-east Kent is short of hotels: traditionally, travellers to and from Dover have made their stopping points further afield. The local tourist board is anxious to encourage diversity, but at present the choice of where to stay is mainly limited to small private hotels, guest houses and B&B places.

Easily the best, and almost the only, hotel in Sandwich is **The Bell**: comfortable, with good food and service. It is under the same ownership as Prince's golf course and offers packages including room, breakfast, snack lunch, dinner and green fees from £62 in winter and £84 in summer (0304 613388).

The St Crispin Inn, in the village of Worth, about one and a half miles from Sandwich, offers home-cooked meals and a selection of real ales. B&B from £30-£45 (0304 612081).

In Deal, the **Clarendon** (0304 374748) is close to the castle and the town centre. **Wallett's Court**, in St Margaret's (0304 852424), the home of William Pitt, has a reputation for its cuisine.

Further afield, there is a choice of hotels and guest houses in Dover, and in the resorts of Margate, Broadstairs and Ramsgate. There are also several village inns and country hotels in the area. A full list can be obtained from the Tourist Information Office, Townwall Road, Dover CT16 1JR.



Golfing outlook: window at the The Bell hotel, Sandwich

✕ WHERE TO EAT ✕

DEAL and Sandwich have never gone in much for "fancy" restaurants. To compensate, the towns and surrounding villages have many excellent, unpretentious pubs with good beer, local seafood and, of course, sandwiches.

- Recommended pubs include the **Hare and Hounds** in Northbourne (0304 365429) and the **Crown Inn** at Finglesham (0304 612555), both a few miles outside Deal.
- Among the best restaurants is the **Fisherman's Wharf**, in Sandwich, just up the road from the Quays. This is an above-average seafood venue, where the menu includes oysters, lobster, bass, turbot and Dover sole. It has a reasonably priced wine list. Lunch or dinner for two, £30 to £40. Open Tuesday to Sunday (0304 613636).
- **The Flying Dutchman**, 93 Beach Street, Deal, is a family restaurant which makes the most of its Dutch connections. The menu ranges from Cajun specialities to Aberdeen Angus steaks. Tuesday to Sunday, about £30 (0304 374677).
- **Dunkerley's**, 19 Beach Street, Deal, is open all week and specialises in locally caught seafood. Friendly surroundings. A la carte three courses £15-£20 a head (0304 375016).

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n in at intervals through an room. Most parents find it rom satisfactory.

gon Ronay's ... *and Baby nes Too* (£8.95) caters for parents of Britain's four lion under fives. Suitable ls are picked from those uded in Ronay's *Cellnet ide*. These are then subject- inspection by 22 mothers toddlers.

mong the best hotels in this guide are: Woolley nge, a 17th-century manor Bradford-on-Avon, near h (winner of Ronay's Family el of the Year award), with a ervised Woolley Bears Den sery (02216 4705); the ve in Brighton, which proes toys, nappies and potties 73 779222); Knoll House Hotel at Studland Bay, Dorset, close to a safe, sandy beach (adventure playground, suites for families, outdoor pool) (092 944251); and Lanteglos Country House Hotel at Camelford in Cornwall, a children's "paradise" on a 15-acre estate with 66 self-catering villas and lodges and a hotel, four playgrounds, outdoor pool and entertainment (0840 213551).

Discounts at independently owned hotels are not necessarily as great as those offered by the larger hotel chains, but the location and ambience may be worth paying the extra.

Forte Posthouse hotels (0345 404040) charge a flat rate of £39.50 for a room at weekends. In theory, four of you can bunk in together for the same price (meals cost extra). The under fives can eat free from the Hungry Horse menu; the under 16s are charged 50 per cent of the adult menu.

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Forte Crest Leisure Breaks offer a two-night weekend rate of £41 half board per person. Up to three under 16s can have their own room free; meals are charged as at the Posthouses.

Holiday Inn Weekenders (071-586 8111) will let up to three under-19 year olds sleep in your room (are there really any teenagers willing to do this?). If there's a room available, some hotels will offer this to the teenagers.

Twenty-two Holiday Inn hotels have pools. After April, babyfood and "boiled eggs and soldiers" come free. Monster Meals cost from £3.50 for two courses and under 12s can choose from the main menu at half price.

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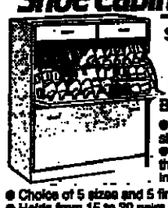


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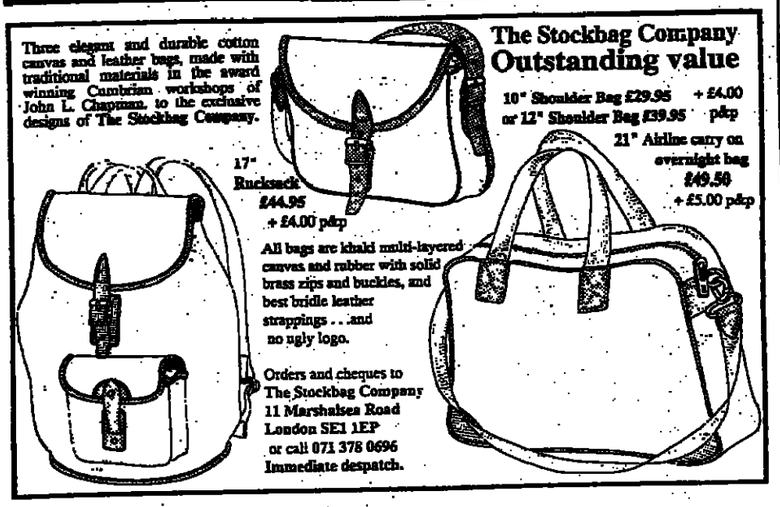
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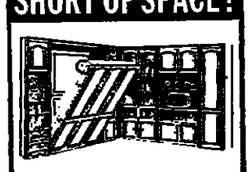
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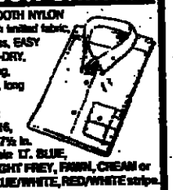
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They're sold off at auction to the highest bidder. But these auctions are unlike any other – THERE ARE NO RESERVE PRICES. The goods offered at government appointed auctions have to be sold there and then for whatever they will fetch.

Most items realise no more than 10% of their market value. You will find all manner of goods there, including boats, planes, automobiles, office equipment, jewellery, video cameras, televisions, fine art and much, much more. And all at knockdown prices. Just take a look at the examples below, noted at recent auctions, all either brand new or in first class condition.

Item	Auction Price (£)	Retail Price (£)
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Amstrad PC Computer	35	499
Canon Photocopier	22	700
Garden Shed (boxed, new)	12	350
Olivetti Electronic Typewriter	90	295
Leather Bound Office Chair	10	125
Dishwasher	20	250
Three Aluminium Step Ladders	5	75
Panasonic Phone and Ansa-machine	17	170
Sharp Microwave Oven (unused)	30	190
Fuji FZ2000 Zoom Camera	45	239
Yamaha LC 125 Motorcycle (2300 miles)	135	950
Toyota Sewing Machine	30	189
Rotary Gold Watch	50	775
Hotpoint Washing Machine (new)	35	350
Case of 12 Glenfiddich Whisky	40	120
Akai Midi Hi-Fi System (boxed)	25	699

Government auctions are held throughout the country approximately every two weeks. The only reason you may not have heard about them is simply because they are not widely publicised. Contrary to popular belief, these auctions are NOT a closed shop exclusively reserved for traders – anyone is allowed to attend them.

The Government Auction Handbook provides you with a comprehensive list of auctions throughout the country – their sale days and times. Also included with your handbook are instructions on how to pay the lowest possible price and how to set yourself up as a dealer, simply and easily. But this is not one of those books professing to tell you how to get rich quick. It's primarily designed to save you money, lots of money.

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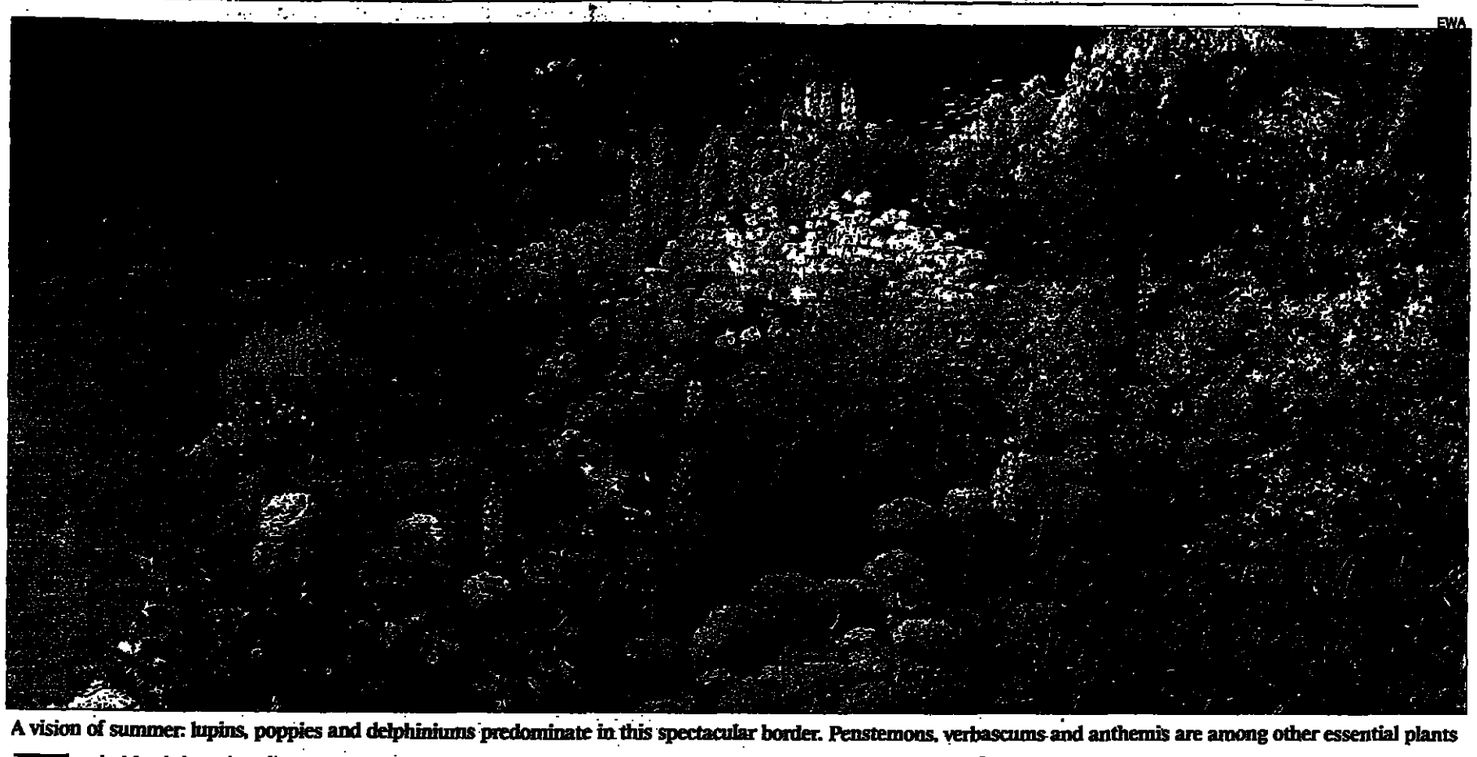
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Francesca Greenoak greets the first signs of spring with planting ideas to ensure summer pleasure



A vision of summer: lupins, poppies and delphiniums predominate in this spectacular border. Penstemons, verbascums and anthemis are among other essential plants

Paint the borders with living colour

Early March is an intoxicating time. The garden is giving hints of the lush orchestration of flower and foliage of the months to come. A little attention now will bring rewards in beds and borders.

There are a number of plants which do better for being planted now, rather than autumn, and it is a pleasure to be working with soil that smells sweet as it begins to warm, and as winter aconites and snowdrops give place to daffodils, hepatica and corydalis.

The relics of winter must be dispatched and the soil given a tonic. Old brown stems and ragged seedheads should go in the compost bin, and mature compost worked in between the herbaceous perennials and shrubs in beds and borders. If garden compost is not available, use a commercial mulch, having worked in a good general fertiliser first. A balanced organic fertiliser, such as bloodfish and bone (or a proprietary complete organic fertiliser), releases nutrients slowly as the soil warms and is better for perennials.

Weed seedlings are a sign that spring planting time has arrived; they are easily removed and compost well with the dry debris.

This is the best time to plant silver-grey artemisias, and woolly plants such as stachys (lambs' ears) and others of the Mediterranean range of plants, such as cotton lavender (*Santolina*) and the delightful French lavender (*Lavandula stoechas*), with its pretty, eared flowers.

Other essential border plants, such as lupins, penstemons, verbascums and anthemis, profit from spring planting.

Buying a good-sized container plant, though more expensive, can give you two (or more) for the price of one, by dividing a larger plant into smaller parts, each of which will grow into a separate plant if repotted and nursed for a few weeks before planting outside.

This is also the best time to buy autumn-flowering asters and Japanese anemones, which can get well established and give a strong show of flowers later this year.

I am glad to see that the grass family is back in fashion. Large clumps, container-grown or already established in the garden, can be divided now (never in the autumn). The once rare violet-black grass *Ophiopogon planiscapus*, which makes an attractive dark glossy patch in the front of a border, is readily available. The elegant tufted hair grass *Deschampsia cespitosa*, with its tall stems and dainty flowers, is one of my favourites, and the late-flowering pennisetum, with its misty purple flowers, will, I think, be a garden centre novelty of the year.

The beautiful, evergreen woodrush *Luzula sylvatica* Marginata, which has elegant rich green leaves outlined in beige, makes an exceptional garden plant; its bright foliage, always fresh-looking, contrasts well in my garden with the small dark evergreen leaves of periwinkle.

Soak container-grown plants for an hour or so before planting; carefully remove as much of the growing medium as possible and gently tease out the roots before resting them on a bed of fertile humus-rich soil in a good-sized planting hole. Fill in the soil around the plant, firming it by hand, and then give a good watering. Watch and water new plantings carefully for several weeks, until root systems are established.

BEST BUYS

GARDEN stores have a range of clematis for planting now. They are easy to grow, provided they are given adequately rich organic soil and water. Buy the white-flowered Marie Boisselot, with its large blooms with cream stamens, the blue Lasurstern or the mid-summer Perle d'Azur. The small-flowered *montana* group (many scented) flowers early and abundantly. Also good value are the pretty *viticella* varieties: the red-pink Mme Julia Correvon and the double Purpurea Plena Elegans.



Blue beauty: Lasurstern clematis

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Prune common buddleias, cutting back to a pair of buds low on last season's growth.*
- *Sow busy Lizzies (Impatiens), petunias, nemesia, verbena and heliotropes in a heated propagator.*
- *Take fuchsia cuttings for plants which, with care, will flower this year.*
- *Choose a clear, dry day to give grass a first cut, setting the mower blades higher.*

MY PERFECT WEEKEND

We ask people in the public eye to reveal the private fantasies that would turn a weekend into 48 hours of pure magic

MICHAEL HOLROYD

Biographer



Where would you go?
To the Nile. It has always existed in my imagination as the most romantic river in the world. I've made plans to go there on two other occasions, but events stopped me.

How would you get there?
I would be driven there over the previous sunny week, in the back seat of a comfortable car.

Where would you stay?
On the small luxury boat that floats so vividly in my imagination.

Who would be your perfect companion?
Novelist Margaret Drabble.

What essential piece of clothing or kit would you take?
Sandals, or perhaps a parasol.

What medicines?
A great many: deep potions, drowsy syrups, magic lozenges, vapours, rubs.

What would you have to eat?
Peking duck.

What would you have to drink?
Iced vodka, 50 per cent proof.

What would you take to read?
The entire works of Beryl Bainbridge, in a satchel.

What music?
Russian music: Prokofiev, Shostakovich, Stravinsky (whom I treat as Russian).

What would you watch on television?
Thrillers, with a good deal of violence, which I find calming.

What film would you watch?
Kozintsev's *Don Quixote*. It's a wonderful evocation of the Knight of the Sorrowful Countenance.

What luxury would you take?
A great, vulgar mound of caviare. I really love it.

What piece of art would you like to have there?
Rodin's *Miss Eve Fairfax* (hoping that the Victoria & Albert wouldn't miss it for a weekend).

Who would be your least welcome guest?
My American publisher. He is always bothering me to change English English into American English, and other pseudo-academic exercises.

Would you play any games?
A last fizzing game of squash at the Gezira Club in Cairo before embarking, and then hang up my racket for ever.

What three things would you leave behind?
The insurance companies, the loss adjusters, the consultant engineers and surveyors who have been watching my house subside over the past year.

What three things would you most like to do?
Indulge my natural gift for daydreaming, swim (rather better than I actually do swim), and discover that I could dance.

Who would you send a postcard to?
To *The Times*, thanking them for this wonderful weekend. I would describe the marvellous car journey to the Mediterranean, explain the peculiar deliciousness of eating caviare and Peking duck on the Nile, accompanied by vodka, to the music of Stravinsky, and convey the dashing figure I cut on deck in my sandals and parasol as I read my Bainbridge novels.

What souvenir would you bring home?
Sand, for my egg-timer.

What would you like to find when you got home?
That my stepson's fine black cat, Zeus, had come for a visit.

Interview by Rosanna Greenstreet

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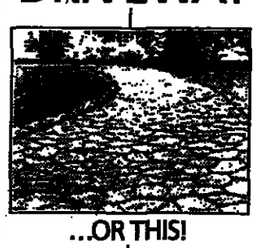
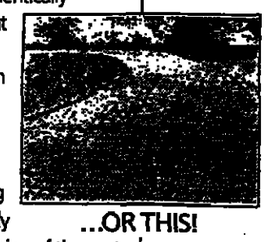

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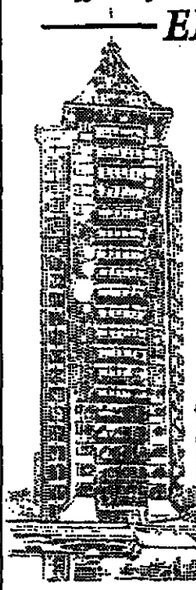
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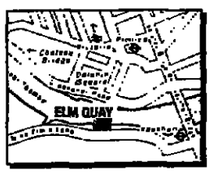
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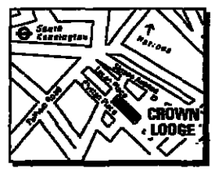
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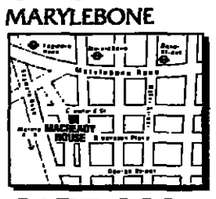
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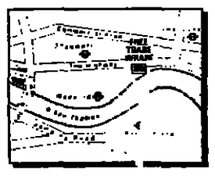


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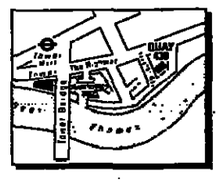
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Kay Marles meets two families who have given up the urban rat race and settled for the remote life of the lighthouse keeper

GLEN EDWARDES



Life in the round: Frank and Danielle Sheahan with baby son Jed outside West Usk lighthouse, Newport

There is something enduringly romantic about the notion of living in a lighthouse. Most offer a remote, windswept setting and the wonderful feeling that suburbia is far away. There are seldom close neighbours, nobody nearby with a house remotely like yours and terrific views across the sea.

And even if the costs of maintenance are high — all those outside walls to be kept nice and white — it is mostly surburban dwellers who have opted for the complete change of life involved in buying a lighthouse.

Lighthouse automation — due in 1997 in England and Wales and 1998 in Scotland — means that lighthouse accommodation is becoming progressively available. In Scotland the cottages or houses usually stand separate from the lighthouse tower, which remains in use; in England property normally comes on to the market because the lighthouse has been decommissioned.

Two English lighthouses are currently for sale: one at Dungeness for £150,000; and London's only lighthouse, at Trinity Buoy Wharf, which has several connected buildings on a three-acre site. In Scotland, Dunnet Head lighthouse, next to the Queen Mother's Castle of May and 12 miles from Thurso is up for sale next month: the Northern Lighthouse Board is expecting offers of more than £40,000.

There are many practical advantages to owning a lighthouse. Invariably solidly built and double glazed, they usually offer a lot of space.

Their sheer size, however, means they can be expensive to heat, carpet and furnish. Frank Sheahan, who bought the West Usk lighthouse near Newport, Gwent, in 1987, estimates that it costs £50 a week to heat the eight rooms, kitchen and bathrooms, with Calor gas central heating. "I have just bought a wood-burning stove for £50," he says, "and plan to use all the driftwood we get here."

He sees maintenance as the other large cost. "Last year I hired a scaffolding tower and totally redecorated the outside. You have to do as much as you can yourself, otherwise it all becomes too expensive."

Mr Sheahan and his wife Danielle, lived in Bromley, Kent, and worked in London for 20 years before opting for a new way of life in Wales. They bought West Usk for £80,000 in a contract race — it was the first of James Walker's many lighthouses and thus attracted a lot of attention.

Since then, the lighthouse has received a Grade II listing. Mr Sheahan now runs it as a bed and breakfast hotel while Mrs Sheahan works as a lecturer at two nearby colleges.

In north Wales, the Great Ormes lighthouse is owned by Barbara and John Callin. Built of limestone and with crenellated walls, it looks more like a small castle than a lighthouse. Mr and Mrs Callin bought it at auction for £63,000 in 1985.

"It meant a complete change," Mrs Callin says. "My husband had a high-powered job and we lived on the Wirral in Cheshire. But we were sick of the rat race and when this came up we jumped at it."

"You have to be a certain type of person to enjoy the isolation of living here," Mrs Callin says. "We have our own spring, which occasionally dries up in the summer, so we have to get the fire brigade to bring us water. But many of our friends say it's the only place they can relax." Perched 370ft up on the cliffs, their lighthouse looks out over both Conway and Llandudno Bays; the Callins also take in bed and breakfast guests.

At West Usk, Mr Sheahan enjoys the outdoor life. "I can breakfast up on the roof area round the tower," he says, "and watch the ships coming up the Severn at night." He is currently restoring the old lamp room, with the help of a local council grant.

Few lighthouses are connected to mains drainage because of their remoteness and also because so many are built on solid rock. The West Usk lighthouse has its own cesspit, which needs emptying every two months at a cost of £38; until recently the sewage from many lighthouses went straight into the sea.

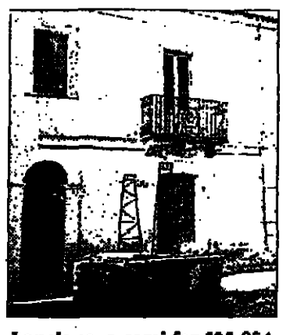
Any changes new owners might want to make require planning permission. The authorities that used to own the properties — Trinity House in England and Wales, and the Northern Lighthouse Board in Scotland — may also impose restrictions.

In reality, owners of lighthouses have shown that they can be converted to all kinds of uses, including hotels and restaurants. In Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, St Mary's lighthouse is a visitor centre; the old Portland lighthouse in Dorset is a bird-watching centre; and the Withernsea lighthouse near Hull on Humberside, which stands in the main street of the town, is now a museum to the memory of the actress Kay Kendall after being bought by her sister in 1976.

Lighthouses are advertised for sale through estate agents and in the national press. The Northern Lighthouse Board has a mailing list for potential buyers, even though you need a helicopter to view many of their properties.

● *The Dungeness lighthouse is being sold through Geering and Colyer (0679 63194); the London lighthouse through Derek Hemingway at LDDC Inward Investment (071-512 8447); the West Usk lighthouse is at St Brides, Wentlooge, nr Newport, Gwent (0633 810126); the Great Ormes lighthouse is at Marine Drive, Great Ormes Head, Llandudno, Gwynedd (0492 876819).*

Bear country



Lanciano: a semi for £35,854



Buyers' Italy

ABRUZZO

South of Umbria and the Marche, Abruzzo, a sparsely populated mountainous region on the eastern edge of central Italy, remains largly undiscovered by British holidaymakers and househunters. Prices are reasonably low and there is a good range of property, from rustic stone cottages to modern seaside villas and apartments.

A short drive into the hills behind the Adriatic coast and the beaches of Fossacesia Marina, near the old town of Lanciano, you can buy this semi-detached stone house, with a quarter of an acre of garden and fruit trees, for £35,854 (including agent's fees). It is half an hour's drive from the airport at Pescara, two hours from Rome, and 40 minutes from the ski slopes at Gran Sasso.

The house has been restored and is ready to move into. It has two large rooms, a kitchen and utility room on the ground floor, a small bathroom and a huge bedroom upstairs, with balcony and terrace, that would easily convert to another two rooms. (The Italian agent is: Enrico Giuli, Piazza della Rinascita 51, 65122 Pescara, Abruzzo, 01039 337 662828.)

Abruzzo is a vast, mountain playground, boasting the best winter skiing at Gran Sasso and summertime hiking and climbing in the National Park, home of the Abruzzo bear.

The Adriatic coastline around Pescara, scattered with small fishing ports and seaside towns, has its share of high-rise concrete and crowded beaches. However, there are undeveloped stretches of pine-fringed sandy beach on the edge of even the busiest resorts.

Inland there are many interesting old towns and unspoilt mountain villages. L'Aquila (the eagle), the regional capital, is a lovely old town, perched on a wooded mountaintop; the medieval city of Sulmona lies in a green valley at the foot of the Maiella mountain; and ancient Chienti, halfway between the mountains and the sea, has many Roman remains.

In recent years there has been some attempt to open up the region to tourism. Pescara, Abruzzo's biggest resort on the Adriatic coast, with its newly expanded airport, operates charter flights from Britain during the summer. Rome airport, with year-round flights from the UK, can be reached in less than two hours, since the opening of a new tunnel through the Gran Sasso mountain.

Modern seaside villas and apartments tend to be more expensive than older, character properties inland. A newly-built two-bedroom apartment in Pescara is likely to set you back about £50,000; a small villa from £60,000.

There are plenty of cheaper properties in the small seaside towns and fishing villages. Prices start at £17,000 for a studio, and from £20,000 to £35,000 for one and two-bedroom flats.

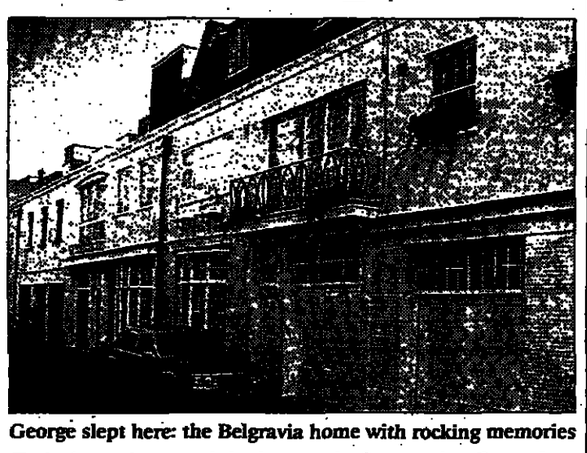
A short distance inland from the Adriatic you can still find an old farmhouse to restore, with four or five rooms and a small plot of land for as little as £12,000.

A renovated farmhouse, situated in the hills near Gran Sasso, with two bedrooms, kitchen and bath, is currently for sale at £25,859, including furnishings and half an acre of land. (Agent: Enrico Guili, address above.)

CHERYL TAYLOR

Can't buy me space

HOUSE HUNTER
Eaton Mews Belgravia



George slept here: the Belgravia home with rocking memories

The ultimate dream for the collector of pop-star memorabilia must be, not the idol's old guitar, nor yet the sweat-drenched gold lamé suit, but his or her former home. To be able to eat where he ate, sleep where he slept, wander from room to room humming nostalgic little numbers, must be quite a consolation in the absence of the star's physical presence. Of course, the house must fit the image.

If the expectations of George Harrison's former home are of a brick terrace in Liverpool's unlovely but atmospheric Mossley Hill, the prospective purchaser is in for a shock. This particular house, 39 Eaton Mews North, is situated in London's Belgravia and was acquired by the quiet Beatle when things were getting better all the time. It was bought from him by the present owner in the 1970s.

The Mews owes more to Neopolitan ice-cream or subtle shades of Brighton than it does to stabling. A double row of pink, white and blue bijoux façades face each other across a cobbled yard. The interior disappoints, unable to match the restrained jollity of these exteriors.

A small dark box of a hall gives on to the living-dining room. Disproportionately high ceilings, fluted mock pillars, the light transmuted by an upper row of frosted glass windows, combine to produce a gloomy, echoey space and the sort of effect you might create by putting a plush reproduction Victorian "lounge suite" in a British Rail waiting-room.

The kitchen is long and thin, well endowed with timber cupboards, one-third of which are well above head height and would probably require an extension ladder for access, although perhaps this is a plus from the security point of view.

Plain ochre ceramic tiles are interspersed with a number of individual tiles reputedly grouted in by Harrison himself. The garage has been converted into a small room.

Upstairs, the master bedroom has been kitted out in brown panels papered in autumn leaves. The bathroom has a semi-circular bath in mushroom, marble tiles *au marron* and beige carpets; the bath taps are gold and crystal and the gold spout is shaped like a dolphin's head. There is a guest bedroom and separate bathroom.

On the second floor a studio houses a corner cabinet in varnished teak with louvred doors designed for the guitar maestro's hi-fi equipment, a portion of the surface hinged to reveal a cut-out for an old-fashioned turntable. A balcony adorns the front of the house. Despite lacking the street cred of a genuine Penny Lane terrace and, at £375,000, probably more than ten times the cost, this is one of those things that money just can buy.

"We try to price realistically, but leave enough room for negotiation," says Roya Hunter of Knight, Frank & Rutley's Sloane Street office. They can work it out.

ELUNED PRICE

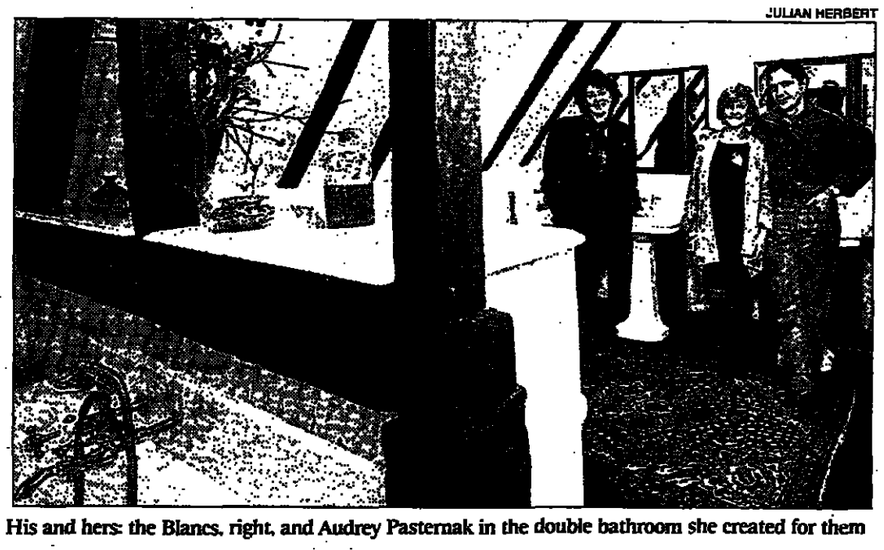
● *39 Eaton News North is for sale on an enfranchisable lease through Knight, Frank & Rutley, 152 Sloane St, at £375,000.*

Style rules in the White house

me & my designer

Kati and Raymond Blanc's ugliest room is now elegance itself

JULIAN HERBERT



His and hers: the Blancs, right, and Audrey Pasternak in the double bathroom she created for them

A room where total relaxation is possible is something Kati Blanc appreciates more than most. A busy schedule as a psychotherapist and her involvement with Le Manoir aux Quat' Saisons, outside Oxford, run by her husband Raymond since 1983, leaves precious little spare time. So the bathroom in the Blancs' thatched, part 14th-century Oxfordshire cottage has become very much a personal haven.

But it hasn't always been a soothing sanctuary. "When we moved into the cottage eight years ago the bathroom was the ugliest room," she says.

So Mrs Blanc turned to her friend, interior designer Audrey Pasternak, who specialises in organising sensitive, high-specification conversions.

"Audrey has been a friend for some time and has impeccable taste. She also knows me very well. I hardly had to brief her and she knew exactly what I wanted," Mrs Blanc says.

"What I had in mind was a very understated room absolutely unlike Le Manoir. I wanted it to look very elegant with simple lines and soothing colours."

"The only brief Kati gave me," Mrs Pasternak says, "was to create somewhere warm and comfortable. I was aware of her busy life so I knew it had to be a very relaxed room — much more than just a place to wash."

It was Mrs Pasternak's idea to knock down the wall between a small lavatory and the original bathroom to open up the space. Continuous strips of specially cut, polished wooden decking from the Danish company, Junkers, united the area in a pleasing mellowness.

"I wanted it to look as if it was all done a long time ago," Mrs Pasternak says. She also arranged for the walls to be washed with a variety of very faint colours — warm ivory with "a whisper" of yellow and pink — to look like faded wallpaper.

"Then it struck me that we could introduce the flavour of Kati's Hungarian homeland without losing the country cottage flavour. So I commissioned a series of hand-painted panels for the cupboard doors from John Simpson, who works for Winston Yeatts of Warwickshire. We settled on interpretations of botanical drawings in colours such as parchment, with faded yellows, pinks, mauves and greens that are picked up by the two Persian and Turkish rugs on the floor.

I wanted the painted panels to look a little bit like folk furniture," Mrs Blanc says.

"Given their busy lifestyles there was no way the Blancs could share a basin," Mrs Pasternak says. To avoid the twin basins overpowering the room she chose a white, classic suite by Spordoni with Max Pike nickel taps.

Exposing and staining the original sloping roof beams helped retain the country cottage character while colonial-style internal shutters echo the louvred doors of the airing cupboard and steam/shower-room tucked into a corner next to the staircase. A window seat, with linen basket below, looks invitingly comfortable, thanks to a huge cushion covered in a tapestry fabric from Pierre Frey in London, which continues the period-style theme.

"In Hungarian interiors you often see latches rather than door handles, so I commissioned special latches for the doors to the bedrooms and the stairs," explains Mrs Pasternak. "The mirror-front cupboards have touch latches."

Removing the wall between the original bathroom and lavatory left a horizontal structural beam which runs along one side of the cast-iron Duker bath, topped with white marble to match the basin splashbacks.

"Audrey is incredibly thorough," Mrs Blanc says. "She can spend a whole day deliberating about a colour. It is a real delight working with her because you know you are in the safest possible hands. She has an uncanny way of knowing what will be right.

"The bathroom is planned around our needs and personalities. I can shower if I am in a hurry yet also luxuriate if I want to. Or I can sit in the steam room and come out a totally different person."

Mrs Pasternak is now progressing to other parts of the Blancs' home. Work starts soon on an extension very much in keeping with the architecture and style of the cottage.

There are also plans to build a conservatory overlooking the back garden, which will link one end of the building to the other as well as allow more light inside.

Planning permission is also being sought for a linked extension that will house an indoor pool and sauna. It perhaps comes as no surprise that the kitchen is one room Mrs Pasternak won't be refurbishing.

NICOLE SWENGLEY

Spoiling the house for a ha'porth of coping

Heap of the week: Bettisfield Park



Beauty without power: Bettisfield Park, awaiting its cables

CORNELIA Bailey is a damsel in distress. Seemingly against impossible odds, she has rescued Bettisfield Park, the vast crumbling seat of the Hamners in Flintshire, near Wrexham, only to find the whole project endangered by a quarrel over the coping stones on a wall.

She bought Bettisfield in 1989. The house had been empty and decaying for years and in 1980 Sir John Hamner sought to demolish it, only to be refused following a public enquiry. In 1988 the council resolved to serve a repairs notice, but shortly afterwards Sir John agreed to sell the house to Mrs Bailey. There was one condition — a new wall, matching existing estate walls, had to be built between the house and the stables where Sir John's son lives.

Mrs Bailey decided to demolish the derelict Victorian additions and restore Bettisfield as a single family house. The architect of this is unknown, although the domed bow is very much in the manner of the Wyatts.

Mrs Bailey does not have vast resources but instead a remarkable capacity to enthuse others, and a small army of builders has been at work, many as volunteers. Inside there is a vast amount of rich plasterwork, sensitively repaired. The hall glows in a pale Pavlosk pink, and almost every room is elegantly decorated. There is only one problem. You turn the light switch and nothing happens.

Bettisfield Park is landlocked by Hamner property, and Sir John has refused Manweb, the local electricity company, the necessary wayleave to lay cables across his land because he does not approve of the new wall. "The coping stones are not laid level or in a straight line," Sir John's agent at Smiths Gore says. But Mrs Bailey has already relaid the coping stones once, to please Sir John.

I asked for a second opinion from Michael Tree, a chartered surveyor with long experience in restoration work. He says: "In my opinion the work has been satisfactorily completed."

Over the last two years Mrs Bailey has spent more than £500,000 on the restoration of Bettisfield Park. This includes £198,324 from Cadw, the sister body of English Heritage in Wales. While the stalemate continues, it is the public investment in Bettisfield which is as much at risk as Mrs Bailey's.

MARCUS BINNEY

Make mine a moving experience

Automated toys are back in fashion and fetching top prices in the sale rooms, reports Nicole Swengley

BARRY GREENWOOD



It's a dog's life: Andy Hazell and Lucy Casson with their automated singing dogs, which will be exhibited at the Royal Festival Hall

Collectors of automata are prepared to pay increasingly large sums for a moving experience. Last September, Christie's sold a 19th-century Pierrot Serenading the Moon for £31,900, and Sotheby's estimates that a Pierrot with Monkey, dated about 1890, will fetch between £20,000 and £35,000 at a London sale in May.

Making inanimate objects move has always fired man's imagination. Hero of Alexandria used a rudimentary steam engine to revolve dancing figures in the first century. Leonardo da Vinci created a mechanical lion to welcome Louis XII to Milan in 1500. Mary Shelley took the idea to its ultimate extreme with her vision of the Frankenstein monster.

By the 19th century, automata-making had reached its zenith, with French craftsmen creating intricate figures that mimicked the movements of man and beast. But with the development of factory machines during the industrial revolution, handcrafted mechanical sculptures were increasingly relegated to children's toys and end-of-pier amusements.

In the 1970s, automata began to re-emerge as an art form. Over the past 20 years a new wave of automatists has flourished, many of whom use recycled materials to create their wood and metal mechanical sculptures.

Often the pieces reflect political or social concern, offering their makers an intriguing way of combining the skills of sculptor, artist, inventor and social commentator. Collectors are drawn by their combination of clever mechanics and quirky humour. "It is possible to buy good 19th-century pieces in working order for between £2,000 and £7,000," Olivia Bristol, associate director of Christie's, says. "But in our March sale we have a bear, not in working order, which will probably go for around £200. We find that musical ones arouse the most interest."

Sotheby's has sales of 19th-century and early 20th-century automata three times a year. "We sell to collectors rather than investors," Jon Baddeley, head of the collectors' division, says. "There is a growing interest in automata. Some are very lifelike, with breathing movements or fluttering eyelashes; others can be a little macabre."

In May, Sothebys will be offering 19th-century French pieces, including a monkey magician playing with cup and ball, a figure of Buffalo Bill smoking a cigar and a tightrope walker balanced above a clock mechanism. In November it will offer a one-owner collection of 67 pieces.

Some of the contemporary automatists, whose work goes on show next Tuesday at the Royal Festival Hall foyer galleries, accept commissions to make pieces similar to those in the exhibition. More than 70 wood or metal sculptures by 20 of Britain's leading automatists are featured and many of the inventions, powered by an assortment of cams, cogs, wires and wheels, can be operated by visitors.

The exhibition includes Jon Mills's squirming steel and brass "fish supper"; Frank Egerton's "whale", whose tail-come-lever pokes out a tongue off which trip two penguins; and James Chedburn's "fairytale serpent and maiden".

During the exhibition, the RFH craft shop will sell a range of automata. Prices range from a few pounds to several hundred.

Mr Egerton describes automata as "pure escapism. If an idea invites the surprise of movement, I'll make it. The greatest satisfaction is seeing people smile."

> Making inanimate objects move has always fired man's imagination

Andrea and Jon Robertson, whose collection led to the establishment of the Museum of Automata in York last year, say that entertainment is also paramount. The museum has about 300 exhibits including 19th-century French pieces and a number of 20th-century British automata, which can be activated by visitors.

The museum also has a wide range of publications and gifts relating to automata, including Paul Spooner's *Museum of the Mind* (£9.99), with a cardboard cut-out head, plus human emotions, to be published by the museum in April.

"Some early pieces were serious scientific experiments, but contemporary automata are made purely for fun," Mrs Robertson says.

"Unlike the Victorian ones made by teams of people, modern automata are individually made with the personality of their makers much in evidence."

Mr Robertson sounds a warning note for new collectors. "Automata have increased in value by between 200 per cent and 400 per cent in the last ten years. In the 1970s we were paying around £2,000 for a piece. Now it's more like £10,000 to £15,000. There's not much around in the hundreds anymore."

But anyone interested in starting a collection of contemporary automata on a restricted budget might visit the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre in Covent Garden, London, which houses a permanent collection of 60 pieces made by nine artists over the last ten years.

A range of small, wooden hand-cranked models is on sale along with some limited edition designs. Prices range from around £20 for a wooden chewing cow to around £300 for a metal dragon by Keith Newstead.

● *Automata, Royal Festival Hall foyer galleries, Royal Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1, from March 10 to April 12. Cabaret Mechanical Theatre, 33-34 The Market, Covent Garden, WC2E 8RE (071-379 7961). Prototypes and Leftovers, a special exhibition by Tim Hunkin, runs until April 12. Entrance to permanent collection £1.75, children £1. The Museum of Automata, 9 Power Street, York (0904 655550) has practical workshops for schools (ages six-11) run by automatist David Secrett, from March 9-13. Christie's next major sale of automata is on May 20 at 85 Old Brompton Road, SW7 (071-581 7611). Sotheby's next sale is on May 7 and 8 at 34-35 New Bond Street, W1 (071-408 5196).*

More than just a lot of hot air

Blow by blow, the skill of transforming pieces of glass into works of art

Glass blowers, of course, need plenty of puff. Less obviously, according to Wenna Bishop, one of London's few glass blowers and designers, they need lots of stamina, too.

"When I first started blowing I found it incredibly tiring," she says. "But then I spent a year as an assistant at a hot-glass workshop and really enjoyed it. It was this experience that convinced me I really wanted to keep working with glass and creating my own designs."

Ms Bishop, aged 32, who comes from Cornwall, has been running her cold-glass workshop in south London's 401½ Studio for two years. She originally trained as a ceramicist, but now prefers working with what she calls "this lively, fierce, molten material".

She acknowledges that the public accepts that hand-blown glass does not always come out exactly the same — "but they do want their wine glasses to have a similar shape, which is a challenge for anyone working with glass".

When she started her business, Ms Bishop found she no longer had the time to blow her own glass, and now oversees the replication of her designs at a workshop in Gloucestershire.

"What happens now is that I draw the designs and then direct and help out with the blowing and the colour of the glass. I then take the pieces back to London and do all the shaping, cutting, frosting and grinding."

Ms Bishop has become known for the special motifs, like rosettes and starfishes, that she uses in her designs. Her influences stem from early Roman, early Venetian and 17th and 18th-century Bohemian glass. "I especially like Bohemian glass that features 'prunts' [little additions of glass added for decoration], so I developed the starfish and rosettes."

"Glass is expensive," Ms Bishop says. "It is always more pricey than ceramics, because the cost of keeping the furnaces running is high and there is also more scope for disastrous breakages. But I find glass magical."

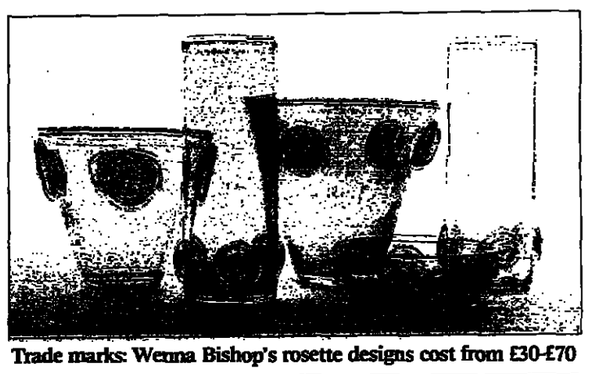
Compared to other craft workers there are small numbers of glass designers, which means less competition. The drawback is that until recently most people bought a set of tumblers from their local department store.

But times are changing, and such places as Christie's and Bonhams are popularising glass with their new emphasis on contemporary arts.

"I've had several shows and I am beginning to get noticed," Ms Bishop says, "so I feel I have made the right decision to open up my business. At times I have felt like giving up, but at least I haven't yet resorted to growing cabbages in Cornwall."

LUCI CAVENDISH

● *Wenna Bishop's work is at: 401½ Studio, 401½ Wandsworth Road, SW8 2JP (071-737 4066); Contemporary Applied Arts, 43 Earlham Street, WC2 (071-836 6993); Route 76 Arthouse, Westow Street, SE19 (081-771 1022); Designers Guild, 277 King's Road, SW3 (071-351 5775); Ashdown Gallery, Uckfield, Sussex (0825 767180); Stafford Art Gallery, Stafford (0785 57303).*



Trade marks: Wenna Bishop's rosette designs cost from £30-£70

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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RAVENSCOURT PK, Hammersmith 2 large rooms in comfort/ calm house, all amenities £85/£90 pw. 081 741 1198.

STREATHAM L B of Wands, worth Lge 3 bed house, fully furn 2 single profs. Dbl rm each £65 pw 081 769 4256

TURNELL PARK N7 own good sized rm in largish flat all mod cons £65pw Call 071 607 8128 with enough 24 hrs

W6, N/S, o/r in c/h flat close tubes, plus amens, £55 pw incl. Tel 081 740 6291.

RENTALS

BAYSWATER
W2 Lovely 1 bed flat, good security, close to all amenities. £200 pw negotiable.
Please telephone 0831 265040.

MAIDA VALE
Clare Court W9. Lovely 2 bed, 2 bath flat, 24 hour portierage, lift, excellent security, close to all amenities. £300 pw negotiable.
Please telephone 0831 265040.

ACCOMMODATION Urgently req for City institutions. Call us with your properties to let. Sebastian Estates 071 381 4998

BARNES flat for couple in elegant period house nr tube, shops. £180pw. 081 741 0978

BARNES Lovely furn flat for dble bdrm, k&b, bthrm. GCH, patio. £130pw. 081 748 8552

CHELSEA N/S 10 Large luxury 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom furnished show flat in period bldg (ft), 2 balns, each equipped. £290 pw. Tel 071 584 7486

CHELSEA studio flat, Sloane Ave. Recently refurbished, very clean, new furn/decor. £135 pw incl H/Hs. Tel 071 589 8414 (Office hrs).

EAST DULWICH. Furnished light airy spacious 1st floor flat. 2 dbl bed, CH, wash/dry, tea chest, ideal young profession als. £120 pw, secured short hold tenancy. 0483 277270

HAMPSTEAD HEATH Lge garden studio flat. Open fireplace, patio to garden. Shared w/machine. Non smokers. £660 pcm inc CH. Tel 071 431 4278

HAMPSTEAD HEATH Attractive flat dbl bedrm, k/t/b/rm etc. Shared gdn & washing machine. Non Smokers £150 pw inc. CH. Tel 071 431 4278

HARLEY ST newly dec furn flat. Lge recep, dbl bed, k & b. Wash mach phone, TV. Min 6 mths. £190 pw. 071 609 0991

LARGE Bedroom & Bathroom in family house Fulham. £70 pw incl Colour TV + Free Parking Tel 071 736 1906

NOTTING HILL Newly refurbished flat furn. 2 beds, 2 lux baths, F/F kitchen, diner, reception, patio, own entrance. Long let. £285pw. Tel 071 221 8581

OVAL room: 2 bed mate with large rec dec. Light & roomy. £55pw pcm. 071 820 9243

RENTALS

PIMLICO 1 dbl bed, lng, din/kit, bath. Suit cple. £175pw inc. CH, HW, elec. 071 828 6484.

PRIMROSE HILL NW1 2 period flats 1 bed £180pw & studio /garden £130 pw incl. Regent & modernised. 071-483 2178

SOUTH KENSINGTON Superb location. 2 bed 1st flr flat. Elegant furn. F/F kit. Private gardens, 5 mins tube. £350 pw. Tel: 071-820 0641 (no agents).

W.SUSSEX Pulborough. Stone manor hse, 62 mins Victoria, quiet & secluded. 6 rms, 3 suites, 6 further beds, cott, stables, pool. 11 acres. From £2,250 pcm acc. to req. 0798 872186

W1/MAYFAIR Ex-Diplomats lux furn 4 bed 2 bath 2 rec maisonette £498pw 071 724 3612.

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CARTIER Pasha mens chronograph. 18kt Gold on Gold bracelet. New Jan 90. Mint cond with Cartier g'tee. Cost today £18k. Accept £7,500. Phone 0633 701466 (Eve). 0633 714408 (O)

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PRESENT SURPRISE

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AUTHOR OF THE FAR PAVILLIONS

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'The Sun in the Morning'.

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LEGAL NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS TO SUBMIT CLAIMS
NICO SMALLWORKS AND MAINTENANCE LIMITED (IN LIQUIDATION)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Creditors of the above named company are required on or before 17 March 1992 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims and the names and addresses of their solicitors if any) to A R Bloom at Ernst & Young, Becket House, 1 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EU, the Liquidator of the said company, and, if so required by notice in writing from the said Liquidator by their solicitors or personally, to come in and prove their said debts or claims at such time and place as shall be specified in such notice, or in default thereof they will be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved. Dated 26 February 1992
A R Bloom, Liquidator

LEGAL NOTICES

No. 001342 of 1992
IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
IN THE MATTER OF ROSS GROUP PLC
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on the 10th February 1992 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the Reduction of Share Capital of the above named Company from £46,000,000 to £12,800,000 and for the cancellation of the sum of £33,211,850 standing to the Credit of the Share Premium Account of the said Company.
AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard by the Honourable Mr Justice Mummery at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL, on Monday the 16th day of March 1992.
ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said cancellation of the Share Premium Account and for the confirmation of the said Reduction of Share Capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.
A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undermentioned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.
Dated 7th day of March 1992
Messrs Penningtons of Bosnwood House, 69 Old Broad Street, LONDON EC2M 1PE. TEL. 071 457 3000 REF. PJM/tsh/0419d.

POSSIBLE BENEFICIARIES
Would anyone knowing the whereabouts of any possible relatives of Richard Bridge (deceased) late of 30 Hardenge Road, Amamoor in the State of Queensland, Australia who was born in Redditch, Worcester, England on 17 December, 1908, the brother of Aubrey Henry Bridge, also known as Henry Bridge and the son of Henry Bridge and Clarice Bridge (nee Stonefield) please contact the Public Trustee of Queensland, GPO Box 1449, Brisbane Q 4001, Australia, quoting the reference F133 1809242.

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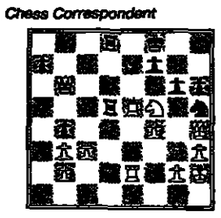
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By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

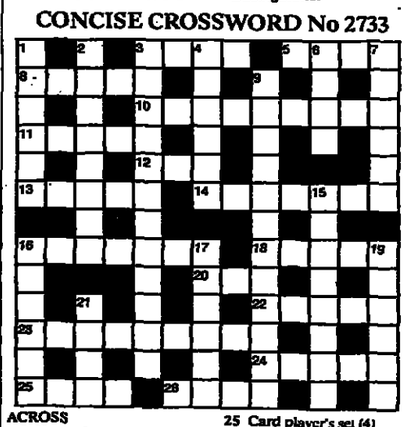


This year has been officially designated "Alekhine Year", in celebration of the world champion who was born 100 years ago. This week *The Times* continues to feature positions from his games. Today's position is a variation from the game Alekhine – Tarrasch, St Petersburg 1914. Can you spot Alekhine's intended winning coup which forces *checkmate in three moves*?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a Batsford chess book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following Saturday.

Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Qxg6. The winners are: I.C. English, Ripon; R.K. Pati, London N12; R.A. Stockwell, Basingstoke.

CONCISE CROSSWORD No 2733



ACROSS
3 Young horse (4)
5 Homework (4)
8 Smell (5)
10 Sanction (9)
11 Maintenance petty officer (5)
12 Knowledge (3)
13 Horse straps (5)
14 Swindled (7)
16 Yield (7)
18 Masonic group (5)
20 Before (3)
22 Burp (5)
23 Attachment (9)
24 Compare (5)
25 Card player's set (4)
26 Impression (4)

DOWN
1 Stock wholesaler (6)
2 Pilot's control (8)
3 "My Way" singer (5,7)
4,5 Be present (6)
6 Train travel (4)
7 Annoyed (6)
9 Boxing prize (8,4)
15 Decorous (8)
16 Trounce (6)
17 Light cake (6)
19 Natural gas hydrocarbon (6)
21 Tibia front (4)

SOLUTIONS to No 2732

ACROSS: 1 Scorer 5 Aegis 8 Oft 9 Annual 10 Tomboy 11 Bush 12 Marinade 14 Asleep 15 Carafe 16 Backdrop 18 Mood 19 Dollop 21 Oceliot 22 IOU 23 Sexed 24 Sugary

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RDAY MARCH 7

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Your guide to the week's viewing

THIS WEEKEND

SATURDAY

BBC1

6.35am Open University 7.25 News; Weather 7.30 Crystal Tipps And Alistair 7.35 WizBang 7.45 The Jetsons 8.05 Eggs 'n' Baker 8.35 Thundercats 9.00 Going Live! 12.12 Weather 12.15 Grandstand 5.05 News; Weather 5.15 Regional News and Sport 5.20 Stay Tooned! 5.45 Big Break 6.15 Noel's House Party 7.05 The Paul Daniels Magic Show 7.50 Columbo 9.00 Moon and Son 9.55 News; Sport; Weather 10.15 That's Life! 10.55 Match Of The Day 11.55 Film: Amazon Women On The Moon (1987): Comedy starring Rosanna Arquette, Steve Guttenburg, Michelle Pfeiffer and Carrie Fisher 1.15am Weather

BBC2

6.40am Open University 3.00 Mahabharat 3.40 Film. Auntie Mame (1958) 6.00 Late Again 6.35 News, Sport, Weather 6.50 The Magic Art Of Jan Svankmajer 7.30 Fine Cut 9.00 Film: Prizzi's Honor, Hit-man Jack Nicholson falls in love with Kathleen Turner, unaware that she is in the same business. 11.05 Guitar Legends: Jazz Night 12.40am Close

WORLD SERVICE TV

9.30am Blue Peter 9.55 A Likely Lad 10.20 Melvin and Maureen's Music-a-Grams 10.35 Grange Hill 11.00 Top Of The Pops 11.30 The Clothes Show 12.00 Tomorrow's World 12.30 Natural World 1.20 Gardeners' World 1.50 Wildlife Gems 2.15 Rosemary Conley 2.40 Beautywise 3.00 Antiques Roadshow 3.50 Dr Who 4.15 Travel Show Extra 4.40 World News Week 5.05 BBC News From London 5.15 BBC Results 5.25 Landmarks 5.45 Big Break 6.15 Noel's House Party 7.05 Paul Daniels Magic Show 7.50 Talking To Myself 8.00 BBC World Service News 8.30 Only Fools And Horses 9.20 Us Girls 9.50 Timewatch 10.40 Fire In The Blood 11.30 Close

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoons 7.00 Simon In The Land Of Chalk Drawings 7.30 Once Upon A Time . . . Space 8.00 Story Break 8.30 The Dreamstone 9.00 Captain N 10.00 Spiderwoman 11.00 The California Raisin Show 12.00 The Haunting Of Harrington House 1.00 Adventure 2.00 Stories Without Words 2.30 Simon In The Land Of Chalk Drawings 3.00 The Care Bears Family 4.00 The Dreamstone 5.00 All Change 6.00 Story Break 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Out Of The Fiery Furnace 4.50 UK Today: Aids 5.00 Africa — Different But Equal 6.00 Big City Metro 6.30 Carriers 7.00 Hollywood Chronicles 7.30 Rescue! Baby Sam 8.00 Search For Adventure 9.00 Great Planes 10.00 Beats Of The Heart 11.00 Search For Adventure 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am International Motorsport 9.00 Equestrian Jumping World Cup 10.00 Tennis ATP Tour 11.00 Wrestling 12.00 Saturday Alive 7.00 Indoor Motorcycling 9.00 Boxing 10.00 Indoor Motorcycling 11.30 World Cup Skiing Highlights 12.30 Close

LIFESTYLE

12.00noon Ensign O'Toole 12.30 Spiral Zone 1.00 Saints and Sinners 1.55 Formula 1 2.50 Spain Spain Holiday 3.05 He Shoots, He Scores 4.00 Film. The Simple Truth 6.00 Sell-A-Vision Shopping 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

6.00am Awake On The Wild Side 10.00 The Big Picture 10.30 MTV's US Top 20 Video Countdown 12.30 XPO 1.00 Tears For Fears 2.00 VJ Ray Cokes 4.00 Yo! MTV Raps 5.00 Week In Rock 5.30 The Big Picture 6.00 European Top 20 8.00 Saturday Night Live 9.00 Party Zone 12.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

6.05am Marchen Aus Aller Welt 6.35 Piff und Herkules 7.00 Konfetti 8.20 Klack 9.10 Tom und Jerry Kids 9.35 Peter Pan 10.00 Marvel Universum 11.30 Michel Vaillant 12.05 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles 12.30 Super Mario Brothers 1.00 Daktari 2.00 Sheriff Lobo 3.00 BJ und der Bär 3.55 Der Preis ist Heiss 4.45 Inside Borite 5.15 Gophers 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.15 Full House 7.15 Vier Fäuste Gegen Rio 9.05 Wie Bitte 10.05 Hausfrauen-Report 4 Teil 11.35 Film: Die Verdorbenen Mädchen Vom Mars 1.10 Mannermagazin M 1.45 Hausfrauen-Report 4 Teil 3.05 Film: Die Verdorbenen Mädchen Vom Mars 4.35 Captain Power 5.00 Peter Pan 5.25 Die Flintstone Kids 5.40 Tom und Jerry Kids

SCREENSPORT

6.00am Pre Olympic Soccer Tournament 7.00 Ford Ski Report 8.00 Pre-Olympic Soccer Tournament 9.00 Pilote 9.30 NBA Action 1992 10.00 Pro Kick 11.00 Gillette World Sports Special 11.30 NBA Basketball 1.00 Argentina Soccer 1991/92 2.00 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 4.00 Motor Sport 5.00 Powersports International 6.00 Top Rank Boxing 7.30 US College Bowl Game 9.00 International Iceracing 10.00 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 11.00 Matchroom Pro Box 1.00 Men's ATP Tennis Tour 1992 3.00 NHL Ice Hockey 5.00 US Golf

SKY NEWS

News on the hour. 6.00am News 9.30 Nightline 10.30 Our World 11.00 Dayline 11.30 Newsline Weekend 12.30 Those Were The Days 1.30 Holiday Destinations 2.30 Fashion TV 3.30 Those Were The Days 4.30 Our World 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline Weekend 7.30 Fashion TV 8.30 Destinations 10.30 Newsline Weekend 11.30 Fashion TV 12.30 Destinations 1.30 Newsline Weekend 2.30 Our World 3.30 Target 4.30 Those Were The Days 5.30 Target

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.20 Corps Accord 6.45 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Nord-Sud 8.00 Québec Inc 8.30 Le Club D'Enjeu 9.00 Autrement Dit 10.00 Tant Que Coulent Les Rivières 11.00 Flash TV5 11.05 Reflets, Images D'Ailleurs 12.00 French Television News 12.15 Horizon '93 12.30 Ramdam 1.00 Divan 1.30 Au Plaisir De Dieu 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Flash Varicelle 3.45 Génies En Herbe 4.00 Felix 4.40 Radio 21 5.15 Correspondance 5.30 TV5 News; Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 Auto-Vision 6.30 Belgian Television News 7.00 Thalassa 8.00 French Television News; Weather 8.30 Au Plaisir De Dieu 10.00 French Television News 10.20 Caractères 11.30 Ramdam 12.00 Close

SUNDAY

BBC1

6.45am Open University 8.50 Playdays 9.10 News 9.15 Looking For God 10.00 See Hear! 10.30 Deutsch Direkt! 10.55 Advice Shop Extra! 11.00 Business Matters 11.30 Work Is A Four Letter Word 12.00 Bazaar 12.25 Experiment! 12.30 Country File 12.55 Weather 1.00 News; On the Record 2.00 EastEnders 3.00 Match Of The Day. Liverpool v Aston Villa 5.05 The Clothes Show 5.30 Antiques Roadshow 6.15 Play It Safe 6.25 News; Weather 6.40 Village Praise 7.15 May To December 7.45 Lovejoy 8.35 So Haunt Me 9.05 One Foot In The Grave 9.40 News; Weather 9.55 Mastermind 10.25 Heart Of The Matter 11.00 Dear John: USA 11.25 The Shadow: Police 11.55 Mahabharat 12.35am Weather

BBC2

6.35am Open University 12.00 Around Westminster 12.30 Film: Skin Game (1971). A comedy western with James Garner 2.05 Jean Batten: Garbo of the Skies 3.00 Film: Cross Creek (1983) starring Mary Steenburgen 4.55 Animation Now 5.05 Rugby Special 6.05 Golden Girl 6.35 The Money Programme 7.15 The Natural World: New Guinea — An Island Apart 8.05 Follow The Money 9.05 Trying Times 9.30 Did You See. . . ? 10.00 Screen Two: The Common Pursuit 11.30 Film: Lonely Hearts (1981) 1.00am Rapido 1.35 Close

WORLD SERVICE TV

9.30am Blue Peter 9.55 Dizzy Heights 10.20 Caterpillar Trail 10.35 Grange Hill 11.00 Mexico Viva 11.25 Country File 11.50 Songs Of Praise 12.30 World News Week 1.00 BBC News From London 1.01 On The Record 2.00 EastEnders 3.00 Grandstand 4.15 Standing Room Only 5.05 The Clothes Show 5.30 Antiques Roadshow 6.15 Play It Safe 6.25 That's Life! 7.05 Moon and Son 8.00 BBC World Service News 8.30 Drama 10.15 Goodbye Comrades 11.05 Mastermind 11.35 The Money Programme 12.15 World Business Report 12.30 Victoria Wood As Seen On TV 2.00 Close

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoons 7.00 Simon In The Land Of Chalk Drawings 7.30 Once Upon A Time . . . Space 8.00 Paddington Goes To School 8.30 The Dreamstone 9.00 Captain N 10.00 Prince Valiant 11.00 The California Raisin Show 12.00 Heidi 1.00 Adventure 2.00 Stories Without Words 2.30 Simon In The Land Of Chalk Drawings 3.00 The Care Bears Family 4.00 The Dreamstone 5.00 River Kings 6.00 Paddington Goes To School 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Earthfile 4.30 Metros Of The World 5.00 Strange Planes 6.00 The Munro Show 6.30 Perspectives 7.00 The World's Greatest Ocean Race 8.00 Well-Tempered Bach 9.00 The Red Nine 9.30 Animals Of The Mediterranean 10.00 Diamonds Were Forever 11.00 Animal Activities In The North 11.30 The Art and Vision Of James Hubbell 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Trans World Sport 9.00 Rugby 5 Nations Tournament — Scotland v France 10.30 Motorsport News 11.00 Boxing 12.00 Sunday Alive 7.00 Tennis ATP Tour 9.00 Skiing World Cup 10.30 Boxing 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

12.00noon Ensign O'Toole 12.30 Spiral Zone 1.00 Saints and Sinners 1.55 Power Hits USA 2.50 Spain Spain International Cuisine 3.05 He Shoots, He Scores 4.00 The Great American Gameshows 5.30 Fashion File 6.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

7.00am VJ Rebecca De Ruvo 10.30 European Top 20 12.30 XPO 1.00 The Big Picture 1.30 VJ Ray Cokes 4.30 Tears For Fears 5.30 Week In Rock 6.00 MTV's US Top 20 Video Countdown 8.00 120 Minutes 10.00 XPO 10.30 Headbanger's Ball 1.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

6.05am Yogi Bar 6.30 Scooby Doo 7.00 Li-La-Launebar 8.30 Herr Der Sterne 10.10 Kunst und Botschaft 10.15 Die Woche mit Geert Muller-Gerbes 11.05 Edelhart Magazin 11.30 Major Dad 12.00 Mein Vater ist Ein Ausserirdischer 12.30 Familie Munster 12.55 Ultraman — Mein Geheimes Ich 1.25 Das Bibel Quiz 1.55 MusiCafe 3.05 Film: Karate Tiger 4.45 Chefarzt Dr Westphall 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.10 Ein Tag Wie Kein Anderer 7.15 Traumhochzeit 8.50 Spiegel TV 9.35 Prime Time — Spätausgabe 9.50 Playboy Late Night 10.20 Liebesstunden 10.50 Schloss Pompon Rouge 11.15 Kanal 4 11.45 Rendezvous Unterm Nierentisch 1.15 Film: Die Universohnlichen 2.35 Film: Eins 4.05 After Hours 4.15 Elf 99 5.00 Guten Morgen Deutschland

SCREENSPORT

6.15am Golf Report 6.30 Pilote: Motorsport 7.00 Equestrian 8.00 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 9.00 Gillette World Sports Special 9.30 International Dancing 10.30 Matchroom Pro Box 12.30 Forte Snooker League 1992 3.00 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 5.00 US Mens Pro Ski Tour 5.30 Go — International Motorsport 6.30 Stuttgart Cycling Tour 7.30 Athletics 9.00 International Iceracing 1992 10.00 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 11.00 NBA Basketball 12.30 NBA Action 1992 1.00 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour 6.00am News 9.30 Dayline 10.30 Those Were The Days 11.00 Dayline 11.30 Holiday Destinations 12.30 Financial Times Business Weekly 1.30 Target 2.30 Roving Report 3.30 The Lords 4.30 Those Were The Days 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Roving Report 7.30 FT Business Weekly 8.30 Target 10.30 Roving Report 11.30 ABC News 12.30 FT Business Weekly 2.30 Those Were The Days 3.30 Holiday Destinations 4.30 Health Circuit 5.30 Beyond 2000

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.20 Corps Accord 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Performance 8.00 Envoyé Spécial 9.00 La Leçon De Musique 10.00 Concert 11.00 Flash TV5 11.05 Objectif Europe 11.30 Référence 12.00 French Television News 12.15 L'Ecole Des Fans 1.00 30 Millions D'Amis 1.30 Tu Ne Crois Pas Si Bien Dire 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Correspondance 3.25 Autrement Dit 4.30 Tant Que Coulent Les Rivières 5.30 TV5 News; Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 Le Jeu Des Dictionnaires 6.30 Belgian Television News 7.00 7/7 8.00 French Television News; Weather 8.30 Les Camisards 10.00 French Television News 10.20 Cinérama 11.20 Porte Ouverte 11.50 Close



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MONDAY

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoon Capers 7.15 Wisdom Of The Gnomes 8.45 Jack In The Box 10.45 Stories Without Words 11.15 Cartoon Capers 12.00 Lunchbox 1.30 Jack In The Box 3.30 Wisdom Of The Gnomes 5.00 The Adventures Of Dynamo Duck 6.30 Stopwatch 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Choppers 4.30 The Munro Show 5.00 Amazing Apes 6.25 Beyond 2000 7.05 Two Dollars And A Dream 8.00 Search For Adventure 9.00 Perspectives 9.30 Hollywood Chronicles 10.00 Heida Gwaii 11.05 Carriers 11.30 Earthfile 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Figure Skating Winter Olympics Highlights 10.00 International Motorsport 11.00 Skiing World Cup 12.00 American Supercross Grand Prix 1.00 Rugby 5 Nations Tournament — Scotland v France 2.30 Motorsport News 3.00 Tennis ATP Tour 5.00 Boxing 6.00 Eurofun Magazine 6.30 Tennis ATP Tour 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Football Eurogoals Magazine 10.00 Kick Boxing 11.00 Motor Racing Passion Magazine 11.30 Eurosport News 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

10.00am Great American Gameshows 10.50 Coffee Break 10.55 Getting Fit With Denise Austin 11.25 Cyril Fletcher's Lifestyle Garden 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50 What's Cooking 12.55 Search For Tomorrow 1.20 Skyways 2.20 It's Your Lifestyle 2.30 Rafferty's Rules 3.25 Country Ways 3.50 Tea Break 4.00 Dick Van Dyke Show 4.30 Great American Gameshows 5.25 Doc 6.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

6.00am Awake On The Wild Side 9.00 VJ Paul King 12.00 VJ Simone 3.00 Greatest Hits 4.00 The MTV Coca-Cola Report 4.15 MTV At The Movies 4.30 News At Night 4.45 3 From 1 5.00 MTV Prime 6.00 Yo! MTV Raps Today 6.30 VJ Ray Cokes 9.00 MTV's Greatest Hits 10.00 The MTV Coca-Cola Report 10.15 MTV At The Movies 10.30 News At Night 10.45 3 From 1 11.00 MTV's Rock Block 12.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

7.30am Treff am Alex 8.05 Vater Murphy 8.55 Reich und Schon 9.20 Dr Med. Marcus Welby 10.10 Lieber Onkel Bill 10.35 Tic Tac Toe 11.00 Familienduell 11.30 Der Hammer 11.55 RTL Aktuell 12.00 Eine Schrecklich Nette Familie 12.30 California Clan 1.20 Die Springfield Story 2.05 Dallas 2.55 CHiPs 3.45 Riskant! 4.10 Der Preis ist Heiss 4.45 Durchgedreht 4.55 RTL Aktuell 5.00 Elf 99 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.15 Das A-Team 7.15 Sielmann 2000 8.10 Film: Alligator 9.50 10 Vor 11 10.20 Mannermagazin M 10.50 RTL Aktuell 11.00 Dienst in Vietnam 11.50 Kampf Gegen Die Mafia 12.40 Twilight Zone 1.05 Film: Vom Teufel Geritten 2.25 Film: In Einer Nacht Wie Dieser 3.50 After Hours 4.15 Elf 99 5.00 Guten Morgen Deutschland 5.59 Close

SCREENSPORT

7.00am Eurobics 7.30 Motorsport 8.30 Stuttgart Cycling Tour 9.30 Eurobics 10.00 Powersports International 11.00 Pre-Olympic Soccer Tournament 12.00 Pro Kick 1.00 Go — International Motorsport 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 NBA Action 1992 3.00 IAAF Indoor Athletics Gala 4.30 Gillette World Sports Special 5.00 Bodybuilding 6.00 US Mens Pro Ski Tour 6.30 NHL Action 7.30 International Iceracing 1992 8.30 Best Of US Pro Boxing 10.00 Spanish Football 10.30 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 11.30 International Dancing 12.30 Pilote: Motorsport 1.00 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour 6.00am News 9.30 Sky News 'Phone In 10.00 Dayline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.00 Dayline 11.30 Roving Report 12.30 Good Morning America 2.30 Parliament Live 4.30 The Reporters 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 Beyond 2000 10.30 Newsline 11.30 ABC News 12.30 Newsline 1.30 ABC News 2.30 Beyond 2000 3.30 ABC News 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.30 Newsline

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Selection One World Channel 8.00 Eurojournal 9.00 Les Camisards 10.30 Porte Ouverte 10.50 Flash TV5 10.55 Interval 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 7/7 4.15 La Vérité Est Au Fond De La Marmite 4.40 Méthode Victor 5.00 Questions Pour Un Champion 5.30 TV5 News; Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 Carré Vert 6.30 Swiss Television News 7.00 Le Point 8.00 French Television News; Weather 8.30 Tous A La Une 10.00 French Television News 10.20 Ciel Mon Mardi! 12.20 Close

TUESDAY

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoon Capers 7.15 Wisdom Of The Gnomes 8.45 Jack In The Box 10.45 Stories Without Words 11.15 Cartoon Capers 12.00 Lunchbox 1.30 Jack In The Box 3.30 Wisdom Of The Gnomes 5.00 The Adventures Of Dynamo Duck 6.30 Chicken Minute 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm The Amateur Naturalist. With Gerald Durrell 4.30 Desert Dreams 5.00 Adventures In Space 5.45 Bitten By The Bug 6.00 Voyager 7.00 Africa: Mastering A Continent 8.00 The Story Of Fashion 9.00 Children's War 10.00 Wild Sanctuaries 10.30 Art Of The Western World 11.00 Out Of The Fiery Furnace 11.50 Artworld 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Figure Skating Winter Olympics Highlights 10.00 Biathlon 11.00 Skiing World Cup 12.30 Eurofun Magazine 1.00 Speedskating World Championships 2.00 Table Tennis Olympic Qualifications Tournament, Poland 3.00 Tennis ATP Tour 5.00 Football Eurogoals Magazine 6.00 Rally European Championships, Belgium 7.00 Indoor Motorcycling Trials, World Championships 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Wrestling 10.00 American Supercross Grand Prix 11.00 Eurofun Magazine 11.30 Eurosport News 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

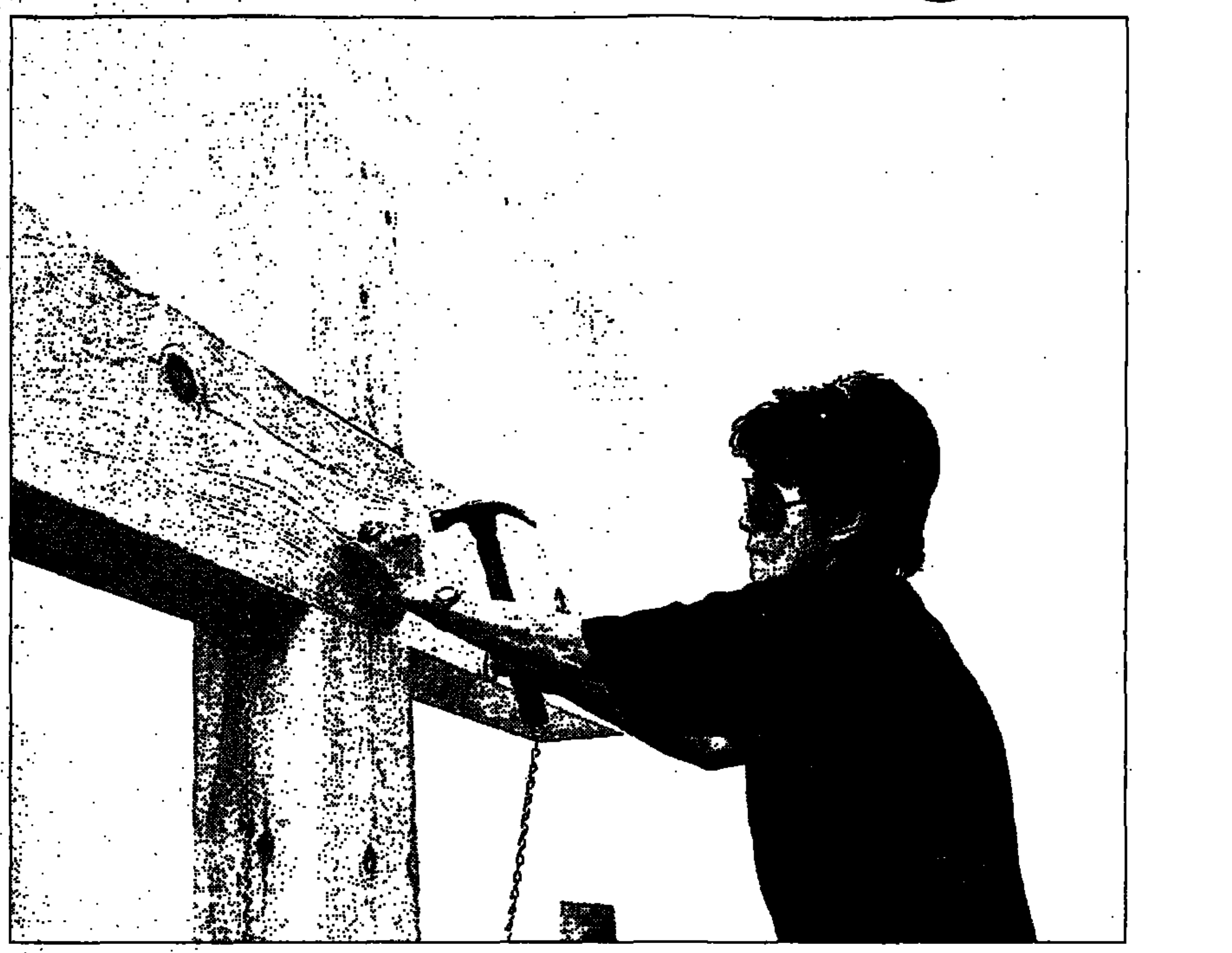
10.00am Great American Gameshows 10.50 Coffee Break 10.55 Getting Fit With Denise Austin 11.25 Wok With Yan 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50 Body Talk 12.55 Search For Tomorrow 1.20 Skyways 2.20 Lifestyle Plus 2.30 I Can Jump Puddles 3.25 Women Of The World 3.50 Tea Break 4.00 WKRP In Cincinnati 4.30 Great American Gameshows 5.25 Doc 6.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

6.00am Awake On The Wild Side 9.00 VJ Paul King 12.00 VJ Simone 3.00 MTV's Greatest Hits 4.00 The MTV Coca-Cola Report 4.15 MTV At The Movies 4.30 News At Night 4.45 3 From 1 5.00 MTV Prime 6.00 Yo! MTV Raps Today 6.30 VJ Ray Cokes 9.00 MTV's Greatest Hits 10.00 The MTV Coca-Cola Report 10.15 MTV At The Movies 10.30 News At Night 10.45 3 From 1 11.00 MTV's Post Modern 12.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos

RTL

7.30am Treff am Alex 8.05 Vater Murphy 8.55 Reich und Schon 9.20 Dr Med. Marcus Welby 10.10 Lieber Onkel Bill 10.35 Tic Tac Toe 11.00 Familienduell 11.30 Der Hammer 11.55 RTL Aktuell 12.00 Eine Schrecklich Nette Familie 12.30 California Clan 1.20 Die Springfield Story 2.05 Dallas 2.55 CHiPs 3.45 Riskant! 4.10 Der Preis ist Heiss 4.45 Durchgedreht 4.55 RTL Aktuell 5.00 Elf 99 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.15 Knight Rider 7.15 Columbo: Waffen des Bosen 9.05 Explosiv 9.45 LA Law — Staranwalte, Tricks, Prozesse 10.50 RTL Aktuell 11.00 Dienst in Vietnam 11.50 Kampf Gegen Die Mafia 12.40 Twilight Zone 1.05 Sturm Auf Hohe 4 2.25 Film: Nur Fur Offiziere 4.15 Elf 99 5.00 Guten Morgen Deutschland



Hammering her point home: artist Yoko Ono (Lifestyle, Thursday) has never been simply John Lennon's wife

SCREENSPORT

7.00am Eurobics 7.30 Go — International Motorsport 8.30 NHL Action 9.30 Eurobics 10.00 Bodybuilding 11.00 NBA Basketball 12.30 NBA Action 1992 1.00 Powersports International 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 International Dancing 3.30 Best Of US Pro Boxing 5.00 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 6.00 Spanish Football 6.30 Longitude 7.00 US Mens Pro Ski Tour 7.30 International Iceracing 1992 8.30 Matchroom Pro Box 10.30 Forte Snooker League 1992 12.30 Spanish Football 1.00 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour 6.00am News 9.30 Nightline 10.00 Dayline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.00 Dayline 11.30 Newsline 12.30 Good Morning America 1.30 ABC News 2.30 Parliament Live 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 Target 10.30 Newsline 11.30 ABC News 12.30 Newsline 1.30 ABC News 2.30 Target 3.30 ABC News 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.30 Newsline

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Selection One World Channel 8.00 Eurojournal 9.00 Caractères 10.10 Alice 10.50 Flash TV5 10.55 Interval 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Le Point 4.15 La Vérité Est Au Fond De La Marmite 4.40 Méthode Victor 5.00 Questions Pour Un Champion 5.30 TV5 News; Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 La Canada Sur Deux Roues 6.30 Swiss Television News 7.00 Envoyé Spécial 8.00 French Television News; Weather 8.30 Funeria, Funerario 10.00 French Television News 10.20 Bouillon De Culture 11.50 Close

WEDNESDAY

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoon Capers 7.15 Wisdom Of The Gnomes 8.45 Jack In The Box 10.45 Stories Without Words 11.15 Cartoon Capers 12.00 Lunchbox 1.30 Jack In The Box 3.30 Wisdom Of The Gnomes 5.00 The Adventures Of Dynamo Duck 6.30 The Guys Next Door 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Sagebrush Country 4.30 Rescue 5.00 Ancient Lives 6.00 Beyond 2000 6.45 Voices Of Wisdom 7.00 Animals Of The Mediterranean 7.30 Kodo 8.00 World War II — A Soldier's Diary 8.25 Australia Take A Bow 8.30 World Of Herbs 9.00 Strange Planes 10.00 Voyager 11.00 Scandal: The Fast Lane 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Alpine Skiing 10.00 Speedskating World Championships 11.00 Eurofun Magazine 11.30 Boxing International Copenhagen Cup 1.00 Football Eurogoals Magazine 2.00 Golf, Teneriffe 4.00 Tennis ATP Tour 5.00 Wrestling 6.00 Athletics Indoor IAAF Meeting, Stuttgart 7.00 Motor Racing Passion Magazine 7.30 Billiard International Masters From Munich 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Eurotop Event 11.00 Motor Racing Passion Magazine 11.30 Eurosport News 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

10.00am Great American Gameshows 10.50 Coffee Break 10.55 Getting Fit With Denise Austin 11.25 Fashion File 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50 What's New 12.55 Search For Tomorrow 1.20 Film: Image of Passion (1982) 3.25 Our Little Town 3.50 Tea Break 4.00 Dick Van Dyke Show 4.30 Great American Gameshows 5.25 Doc 6.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

6.00am Awake On The Wild Side 9.00 VJ Paul King 12.00 VJ Simone 3.00 MTV's Greatest Hits 4.00 The MTV Coca-Cola Report 4.15 MTV At The Movies 4.30 News At Night 4.45 3 From 1 5.00 MTV Prime 6.00 Yo! MTV Raps Today 6.30 VJ Ray Cokes 9.00 MTV's Greatest Hits 10.00 The MTV Coca-Cola Report 10.15 MTV At The Movies 10.30 News At Night 10.45 3 From 1 11.00 MTV's Post Modern 12.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos 5.59 Close

RTL

7.30am Treff am Alex 8.05 Vater Murphy 8.55 Reich und Schon 9.20 Dr Med. Marcus Welby 10.10 Lieber Onkel Bill 10.35 Tic Tac Toe 11.00 Familienduell 11.30 Der Hammer 11.55 RTL Aktuell 12.00 Eine Schrecklich Nette Familie 12.30 California Clan 1.20 Die Springfield Story 2.05 Dallas 2.55 CHiPs 3.45 Riskant! 4.10 Der Preis ist Heiss 4.45 Durchgedreht 4.55 RTL Aktuell 5.00 Elf 99 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.15 Zuruck In Die Vergangenheit 7.15 Die Heimatmelodie 8.15 Gottschalk 9.20 Stern TV 10.00 Der Flotte Dreier 10.30 Benny Hill 10.50 RTL Aktuell 11.00 Dienst in Vietnam 11.50 Kampf Gegen Die Mafia 12.40 Twilight Zone 1.05 Film: Kommandounternehmen Teufelsinsel 2.30 Die Abenteuerin 3.45 After Hours 4.15 Elf 99 5.00 Guten Morgen Deutschland 5.59 Close

SCREENSPORT

7.00am Eurobics 7.30 Longitude 8.00 Spanish Football 8.30 International Dancing 9.30 Eurobics 10.00 Go — International Motorsport 11.00 Forte Snooker League 1992 1.00 NHL Action 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 International Iceracing 1992 3.30 Top Rank Boxing 3.30 Top Rank Boxing 5.00 US College Bowl Game 6.30 Equestrian 7.30 AMA Pro Bikes Review 1991 8.30 Warsteiner Ski Special 9.00 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 10.00 Golf Report 10.15 Great American Events 10.30 NHL Ice Hockey 12.30 US Mens Pro Ski Tour 1.00 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour 6.00am News 9.30 Nightline 10.00 Dayline 10.30 Fashion TV 11.00 Dayline 12.30 Good Morning America 2.30 Parliament Live 4.30 Fashion TV 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 Fashion TV 10.30 Newsline 11.30 ABC News 12.30 Newsline 1.30 ABC News 2.30 Beyond 2000 3.30 ABC News 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.30 Newsline 5.59 Close

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Selection One World Channel 8.00 Objectif Europe 8.30 European Magazines 9.00 Reflets, Images D'Ailleurs 10.00 Nord-Sud 10.30 Feu Vert 10.50 Flash TV5 10.55 Interval 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Plein Cadre 4.15 La Vérité Est Au Fond De La Marmite 4.40 Méthode Victor 5.00 Questions Pour Un Champion 5.30 TV5 News; Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 Montagne 6.30 Swiss Television News 7.00 Temps Present 8.00 French Television News; Weather 8.30 Oui Patron 10.00 French Television News 10.20 Hôtel 11.20 1,2,3 Théâtre 11.25 Close

THURSDAY

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoon Capers 7.15 Wisdom Of The Gnomes 8.45 Jack In The Box 10.45 Stories Without Words 11.15 Cartoon Capers 12.00 Lunchbox 1.30 Jack In The Box 3.30 Wisdom Of The Gnomes 5.00 The Adventures Of Dynamo Duck 6.30 Good Sports 7.00 Close



No mere amateur: Gerald Durrell (Discovery, Tuesday)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Wild America 4.30 Discovery Sport 5.00 Suspicious Circumstances 5.30 Lifestyles 6.00 Voyager 7.00 Jack Thompson Down Under 7.50 Bitten By The Bug 8.00 Desert Dreams 8.30 Blossoming Waste Water 9.00 Well-Tempered Bach 10.00 Big City Metro 10.30 Rescue 11.00 Japan: The Electronic Tribe 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Ice Hockey Winter Olympics Highlights 10.00 Nordic Skiing & Ski Jumping World Cup 11.00 Golf Teneriffe 12.00 Wrestling 1.00 American Football 3.00 Equestrian Show-Jumping World Cup 4.00 Motorsport News 4.30 Car Racing on Ice — France 5.00 American Supercross Grand Prix 7.00 Live Basketball 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Football 10.30 Billiard International Masters 11.30 Eurosport News 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

10.00am Great American Gameshows 10.50 Coffee Break 10.55 Getting Fit With Denise Austin 11.25 Wok With Yan 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50 Style File 12.55 Search For Tomorrow 1.20 Skyways 2.20 Lifestyle Plus 2.30 Rafferty's Rules 3.25 Women Of The World. Featuring Yoko Ono 3.50 Tea Break 4.00 WKRP In Cincinnati 4.30 Great American Gameshows 5.25 Doc 6.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

6.00am Awake On The Wild Side 9.00 VJ Paul King 12.00 VJ Simone 3.00 MTV's Greatest Hits 4.00 The MTV Coca-Cola Report 4.15 MTV At The Movies 4.30 News At Night 4.45 3 From 1 5.00 MTV Prime 6.00 Yo! MTV Raps Today 6.30 VJ Ray Cokes 9.00 MTV's Greatest Hits 10.00 The MTV Coca-Cola Report 10.15 MTV At The Movies 10.30 News At Night 10.45 3 From 1 11.00 MTV's Post Modern 12.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos 5.59 Close

RTL

7.30am Treff am Alex 8.05 Vater Murphy 8.55 Reich und Schon 9.20 Dr Med. Marcus Welby 10.10 Lieber Onkel Bill 10.35 Tic Tac Toe 11.00 Familienduell 11.30 Der Hammer 11.55 RTL Aktuell 12.00 Eine Schrecklich Nette Familie 12.30 California Clan 1.20 Die Springfield Story 2.05 Dallas 2.55 CHiPs 3.45 Riskant! 4.10 Der Preis ist Heiss 4.45 Durchgedreht 4.55 RTL Aktuell 5.00 Elf 99 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.15 21, Jump Street 7.15 Superfan 8.15 Notruf 9.15 Film: Kill Me Again 10.50 RTL Aktuell 11.00 Dienst in Vietnam 11.45 Kampf Gegen Die Mafia 12.40 Twilight Zone 1.05 Film: Sperrfeuer Auf Planquadrat X 2.25 Film: In Den Klauen Des Erpressers 3.45 After Hours 4.15 Elf 99 5.00 Guten Morgen Deutschland 5.59 Close

SCREENSPORT

7.00am Eurobics 7.30 Warsteiner Ski Special 8.00 IAAF Indoor Athletics Gala 9.30 Eurobics 10.00 Volvo PGA European Golf Tour 11.00 Matchroom Pro Box 1.00 AMA Pro Bikes Review 1991 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 Bodybuilding 3.30 US Men's Pro Ski Tour 1991/2 4.00 Longitude 4.30 NHL Ice Hockey 6.30 Argentine Soccer 7.30 Powersports International 8.30 Ford Ski Report 9.30 Spanish Football 11.30 US College Bowl Game 1.00 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour 6.00am News 9.30 Nightline 10.00 Dayline 10.30 Beyond 2000 11.00 Dayline 12.30 Good Morning America 2.30 Parliament Live 4.30 Beyond 2000 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 Financial Times Business Weekly 10.30 Newsline 11.30 ABC News 12.30 Newsline 1.30 ABC News 2.30 Those Were The Days 3.30 ABC News 4.30 Financial Times Business Weekly 5.30 Newsline 5.59 Close

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Selection One World Channel 8.00 Eurojournal 9.00 Bouillon De Culture 10.30 Découverte 10.50 Flash TV5 10.55 Interval 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Temps Present 4.15 La Vérité Est Au Fond De La Marmite 4.40 Méthode Victor 5.00 Questions Pour Un Champion 5.30 TV5 News; Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 Teletourism 6.30 Swiss Television News 7.00 Faut Pas Rêver 8.00 French Television News, Weather 8.30 Babel 9.40 Autant Savoir 10.00 French Television News 10.20 Viva 11.10 Dossiers Justice 11.30 Close

FRIDAY

CHILDREN'S CHANNEL

6.00am Stories Without Words 6.30 Cartoon Capers 7.15 Wisdom Of The Gnomes 8.45 Jack In The Box 10.45 Stories Without Words 11.15 Cartoon Capers 12.00 Lunchbox 1.30 Jack In The Box 3.30 Wisdom Of The Gnomes 5.00 The Adventures Of Dynamo Duck 6.30 You Can't Do That On Television 7.00 Close

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Ourselves and Other Animals 4.30 Big City Metro 4.50 P.D. James 5.00 Beats Of The Heart 6.00 Beyond 2000 6.45 The Kremlin 7.00 Wild Sanctuaries 7.30 A Traveller's Guide To The Orient 8.00 Ancient Lives 9.00 Haida Gwaii 10.00 Voyager 10.55 Voices Of Wisdom 11.05 Two Dollars and A Dream 12.00 Close

EUROSPORT

8.00am Ice Hockey Winter Olympics Highlights 10.00 Athletics: Indoor IAAF Meet, Stuttgart 11.00 Nordic Combined Skiing & Ski Jumping 12.00 American Supercross 1.00 Basketball European Championships 2.30 Trans World Sport 3.30 Golf Cataluna Open 5.00 Kick Boxing 6.00 Tennis ATP Tour 7.00 Funboard Indoor Championship 8.30 Eurosport News 9.00 Funboard Indoor Championship 10.30 Boxing 11.30 Eurosport News 12.00 Close

LIFESTYLE

10.00am Great American Gameshows 10.50 Coffee Break 10.55 Getting Fit With Denise Austin 11.25 Great Chefs Of New Orleans 12.00 Sally Jessy Raphael 12.50 Star Time 12.55 Search For Tomorrow 1.20 Skyways 2.20 Lifestyle Plus 2.30 Power Hits USA 3.25 Country Ways 3.50 Tea Break 4.00 Dick Van Dyke Show 4.30 Great American Gameshows 5.25 Doc 6.00 The Sell-A-Vision Shopping Programme 10.00 Jukebox Music Videos 2.00 Last Jukebox Dance 3.00 Close

MTV

6.00am Awake On The Wild Side 9.00 VJ Paul King 12.00 VJ Simone 3.00 MTV's Greatest Hits 4.00 The MTV Coca-Cola Report 4.15 MTV At The Movies 4.30 News At Night 4.45 3 From 1 5.00 MTV Prime 6.00 Yo! MTV Raps Today 7.00 VJ Ray Cokes 8.30 The Pulse With Swatch 9.00 MTV's Greatest Hits 10.00 The MTV Coca-Cola Report 10.15 MTV At The Movies 10.30 News At Night 10.45 3 From 1 11.00 MTV's Post Modern 12.00 VJ Kristiane Backer 2.00 Night Videos 5.59 Close

RTL

7.30am Treff am Alex 8.05 Vater Murphy 8.55 Reich und Schon 9.20 Dr Med. Marcus Welby 10.10 Lieber Onkel Bill 10.35 Tic Tac Toe 11.00 Familienduell 11.30 Der Hammer 11.55 RTL Aktuell 12.00 Eine Schrecklich Nette Familie 12.30 California Clan 1.20 Die Springfield Story 2.05 Dallas 2.55 CHiPs 3.45 Riskant! 4.10 Der Preis ist Heiss 4.45 Durchgedreht 4.55 RTL Aktuell 5.00 Elf 99 5.45 RTL Aktuell 6.20 Pazifikgeschwader 214 7.15 Tropical Heat 8.10 Ein Schloss Am Wörthersee 9.15 Anpfiff 10.05 Tutti Frutti 11.05 Mitternachtsstrip 11.10 Film: Griechische Feigen 12.30 Film: Yesterday 2.00 Film: Die Blaue Dahlie 3.35 Lonely Fighter 4.20 Captain Power 4.45 Zeichentrickfilm 5.00 Guten Morgen Deutschland 5.59 Close

SCREENSPORT

7.00am Eurobics 7.30 AMA Pro Bikes Review 1991 8.30 International Iceracing 9.30 Eurobics 10.00 Equestrian 11.00 NHL Ice Hockey 1.00 Warsteiner Ski Special 1.30 Longitude 2.00 Eurobics 2.00 Eurobics 2.30 US College Bowl Game 4.00 Argentina Soccer 1991/92 5.00 Pilote 5.30 Ford Ski Report 6.30 NBA Action 1992 7.00 Gillette World Sports Special 7.30 Go — International Motorsport 8.30 Pro Kick 9.30 NBA Basketball 11.00 Top Rank Boxing 12.30 Close

SKY NEWS

News on the hour 6.00am News 9.30 Nightline 10.00 Dayline 10.30 Retrospective — 1970-1991 11.00 Dayline 12.30 Good Morning America 2.30 Parliament Live 3.30 The Lords 4.30 Retrospective — 1970-1991 5.00 Live At Five 6.30 Newsline 8.30 Retrospective — 1970-1991 10.30 Newsline 11.30 ABC News 12.30 Newsline 1.30 ABC News 2.30 Holiday Destinations 3.30 ABC News 4.30 Retrospective — 1970-1991 5.30 Newsline 5.59 Close

TV5

6.00am French Television News 6.40 Méthode Victor 6.55 Clin D'Oeil 7.00 Canadian TV News 7.20 Affiches 7.25 Flash TV5 7.30 Selection One World Channel 8.00 Eurojournal 9.00 Babel 10.10 Autant Savoir 10.30 Magellan 10.45 Science Cartoon 10.50 Flash TV5 10.55 Interval 3.05 TV5 News 3.15 Faut Pas Rêver 4.15 La Vérité Est Au Fond De La Marmite 4.40 Méthode Victor 5.00 Questions Pour Un Champion 5.30 TV5 News; Weather 5.50 Affiches 5.55 Clin D'Oeil 6.00 30 Millions D'Amis 6.30 Belgian Television News 7.00 Strip Tease 8.00 French Television News; Weather 8.30 Fort Boyard 10.00 French Television News 10.20 Mediasud 10.35 Direct 12.00 Close

TOSALES

The Dutch hang on to Rembrandt

George Brock sees the havoc that is being created in Amsterdam as the art experts demystify traditional ideas about their great national painter

Any exhibition of paintings by Rembrandt van Rijn is an event. The collection of pictures which has just left Amsterdam and which will open in London later this month is something more: a broadside in a scholarly battle. The path to the truth about what Rembrandt did or didn't paint is strewn with trouble.

Identifying authentic Rembrandts has divided experts for a century. His paintings remain, after two painstaking decades of dedicated work by the analysts of the Rembrandt Research Project in Amsterdam, some of the most hotly disputed terrain in great art.

The painter worked almost exclusively on canvas and paper, leaving no murals or altarpieces to form a reliable base which would help identify more mobile pictures. He worked closely with his pupils at a time when members of the same studio habitually copied each other's subjects, motifs and compositions. As the irritated head of an American museum put it when one of his Rembrandts was relabelled, Rembrandt was probably looking over his pupil's shoulder as the younger man painted.

Estimates of Rembrandt's output have stretched and shrunk with fashion, peaking at between 700 and 1,000 oil canvases in the 1920s and falling ever since. Rembrandt researchers guard their secrets carefully, for the release of carefully marshalled arguments which "de-attribute" a picture can destroy much of its value in seconds. But the team of scholars in Amsterdam apparently now believes that fewer than 300 paintings can be pinned to Rembrandt alone.

The current show of 50 pictures, which began its westward journey across Europe in Berlin last autumn, is the first systematic attempt to describe the problem which faces anyone trying to classify a "Rembrandt". Alongside the Rembrandts hang 30 pictures by his pupils and close colleagues, including a selection of those once thought to be by the master but now allocated to others.

The catalogue notes read like the last chapters of whodunnits: the master-detective lays out his evidence and pronounces his conclusion, at great and detailed length. Videos show technicians measuring the infinitesimally small gaps between threads in a canvas to help determine whether two paintings were done on pieces cut from the same bolt of cloth.

At first sight this scrupulous honesty might sound painful for the Dutch. But this thorough and clear-eyed combing of the evidence has inflicted the deepest wounds outside the Netherlands, in Britain, Germany and America. The authenticity of Rembrandts owned by the Queen, the Wallace Collection and the National Gallery have been questioned (as will be demonstrated in next week's *Times Saturday Review*). Nigel Konstam, a British sculptor, started a Save Rembrandt Society to stem the tide.

To date, the Rembrandt Research Project has not stripped the Rembrandt label off a single important Rembrandt in a Dutch collection. "I think that the Research Project's work is now generally accepted, but it has been very painful", said Ben Kroon, a Dutch author who has followed the re-evaluation of Rembrandt from the early days. The project's work is not nearly done and may yet strike closer to home. Rumours are current that there are doubts about the *David and Saul* which holds pride of place in the small but beautiful collection at the *Mauritshuis in The Hague*.

The Dutch are trying to draw the painter back to his homeland from the distant regions of romantic myth. Demystification, you feel as you walk the exhibition and read the evidence accumulated by the detectives, is a Dutch talent. Rembrandt, in spite of persistent and inaccurate legend to the contrary, was well enough regarded in his lifetime to be in steady work and for his paintings to be traded across Europe. A reputation as a genius was only established by French art critics of the early nineteenth century. That recognition turned Rembrandt into a symbol useful to the nationalists of the time.

Belgium broke away from the Netherlands and erected a statue to Rubens in Antwerp. The Dutch pushed Rembrandt, whose statue went up in Amsterdam in 1852. Wilhelm von Bode, the foremost German authority of his day, bought *The Man with the Golden Helmet* for the Kaiser-Friedrich Museum in Berlin a century ago and a huge popular cult grew up around the portrait of the melancholy warrior. Rembrandt's supposedly unconventional life and his subjects dressed in armour appealed to a contemporary appetite for romantic militarism.

The difficulty of locating the master's scattered *oeuvre* fed an appetite to list all his work. In 1897, the indefatigable Dutch scholar Abraham Bredius struggled down the slow branch lines of the Polish railway system to visit a Count Tarnowski, and was rewarded with a sensational discovery. "There it hangs!" he wrote, "just one look at it, a few seconds study of the technique, were enough to convince me instantly that here, in this remote fastness, one of Rembrandt's great masterpieces had been hanging for nigh on a century!"



One of the real ones: Rembrandt's *Jeremiah lamenting the destruction of Jerusalem* (1630)

The picture, known as *The Polish Rider*, made its way to the Frick Collection in New York. Twenty years of recent research has persuaded the Amsterdam scholars that *The Polish Rider* is almost certainly not by Rembrandt, although not all American experts agree. The men of the Research Project are positive that Berlin's *Man with the Golden Helmet* is not a Rembrandt.

Nationalism and attribution by instinct have now given way to science and sociology. The array of new techniques available to 20th-century researchers were expected to provide objective information about who painted what. They discovered much new information about how Rembrandt and his pupils worked — he constantly changed his mind about the positioning of hands and arms — but less about authorship. X-rays, accurate measurement of the age of wood panels and "thread density" of canvas only confirmed that the borderline works had been painted in the same workshops as the indisputable Rembrandts. Historians burrowed into the scant biographical information on colleagues such as Govert Flinck and Ferdinand Bol. But the bottom line of a final attribution decision is not so different from the judgements made by cataloguers of the past. In the end, there is no clear proof one way or the other.

The Rembrandt scholars work in the confidence that, while they may upset museum curators and private owners, they cannot destroy the glorious core of the painter's work. The exhibition commentary is deliberately unromantic, stressing the universal tendency of the day to imitate compositions pioneered by the fashionable Italian masters and underlining Rembrandt's attention to his clients' requirements. When the Amsterdam drapers ordered a group portrait to hang high on a high guildhall wall, Rembrandt adjusted the perspective accordingly.

Not even this anti-romantic scholarship can dent the impact of the biblical paintings so strongly represented in the current selection. From the Hermitage in St Petersburg comes the extraordinary *Abraham's Sacrifice*, showing the angel catching one of Abraham's hands while the other still yanks back Isaac's head to expose his throat. The painting, once sold by the Walpole family to Catherine the Great, has not been seen in western Europe for more than 20 years.

Those of us lucky enough to see the exhibition in the Rijksmuseum could stroll on a few yards to the Rembrandts in the museum's permanent collection, including the glowing *Jewish Bride*. When the museum's new building opened in 1885, Vincent van Gogh stopped with a friend before the picture. His friend went on but came back a few minutes later to find van Gogh transfixed before the painting of the affectionate couple. "Would you believe it," said van Gogh, "I should be happy to give ten years of my life if I could go on sitting here in front of this picture for a fortnight, with only a crust of dry bread for food?"

● Rembrandt: the master and his workshop, *sponsored by the American Express Foundation, is at the National Gallery, London, from March 26 until May 24.*

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

AMSTERDAM

EDOUARD VUILLARD (1868-1940): Last chance to see this show of paintings, drawings and lithographs from the French Nabis group artist.
Rijksmuseum Vincent van Gogh, Paulus Potterstraat 7. Tel: (31 20) 5705200. *Until Mar 8.*

BARCELONA

PABLO PICASSO: More than 150 works dating from 1906-8 giving an overview of the so-called "Pink Period".
Museo Picasso, Palacio Berenguer de Aguilar, Calle Montada 15, 17. Tel: (34 3) 3196310. *Until Apr 19.*

BERLIN

JEWISH LIVING WORLD: Exhibition of artefacts, paintings, tapestries, mosaics, murals and architectural remains from the 10th century to the present day, tracing the development of Jewish culture within various societies.
Martin-Gropius Bau, Stresemannstrasse 110. Tel: (49 30) 254860. *Until Apr 26.*

TANNHAUSER: Götz Friedrich's new production of Richard Wagner's opera, conducted by Jiri Kout. The cast is headed by René Kollo.
Deutsche Oper Berlin, Richard-Wagner Strasse 10. Tel: (49 30) 3410249. *Mar 11, 29.*

BERLIN PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: The weekend concerts at the Schauspielhaus are conducted by Claudio Abbado, the BPO's music director. The programme includes Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto* (with Maxim Vengerov as soloist) and Ravel's *Daphnis et Chloé*.
Deutsche Schauspielhaus, Gendarmenmarkt. Tickets from: Berliner Philharmonisches Orchester, Matthäikirchstrasse 1. Tel: (49 30) 2548800 *Mar 7, 8, 9.*

COLOGNE

THE POP ART SHOW: The biggest survey of the Pop Art movement for over 20 years, displaying works principally from London and New York.
Museum Ludwig, Bischofsgartenstrasse 1. Tel: (49 221) 2212379. *Until Apr 20.*

GENEVA

COSI FAN TUTTE: Friedemann Layer conducts Mozart's comic opera with a cast including Renée Fleming (Fiordiligi), Jennifer Larmore (Dorabella), William Shimell (Guglielmo).
Le Grand Théâtre de Genève, Place Neuve. Tel: (41 22) 212311. *Mar 13, 16, 18, 21, 23, 26, 29.*

HAMBURG

DIE EROBERUNG VON MEXIKO: Last performance this season of Wolfgang Rihm's challenging new opera on the conquest of Mexico.
Hamburgische Staatsoper, Grosse Theaterstrasse 34. Tel: (49 40) 351721. *Mar 7.*

PARIS

GIVENCHY: 40 YEARS OF CREATION: Exquisite show of the work of fashion designer Hubert de Givenchy.
Musée de la Mode et du Costume, 10 avenue Pierre I deSerbie. Tel: (33 1) 47208523. *Until Mar 15.*

THE PHILHARMONIA: Charles Dutoit conducts a 20th-century programme.
Théâtre Châtelet, 2 rue Edouard Colonne. Tel: (33 1) 40282840. *Mar 11.*

RENE LALIQUE: Last chance to see this dazzling retrospective of the Art-Nouveau artist, including works in glass, fabrics, sketches and pieces of jewellery.
Musée des Arts Décoratifs, rue de Rivoli 107. Tel: (33 1) 42603214. *Until Mar 8.*

ELEKTRA: Michael Schönwandt conducts Richard Strauss's opera with a cast including Gabriele Schnaut in the leading role, Karen Huffstodt and Helga Dernesch.
Opéra de Paris Bastille, 120 Rue de Lyon. Tel: (33 1) 44731300. *Mar 7, 11, 14, 17, 20, 23.*

TURIN

LA DAMNATION DE FAUST: Luca Ronconi stages Berlioz's theatrical masterpiece, with a cast headed by Margarita Zimmermann and Dimitri Kavrakos.
Teatro Regio, Piazza Castello. Tel: (39 11) 8815241. *Mar 6, 10.*

SATURDAY

[redacted] 4.30am World Business Report 4.40 Travel and Weather 4.45 News and Press Review in German 5.00 German Features 5.24 News in German 5.30 Europe Today 8.00 News 8.09 News about Britain 8.15 The World Today 8.30 Londres Matin 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 People and Politics 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 A Jolly Good Show 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Worldbrief 9.30 Personal View 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.01 Jazz Now and Then 10.15 Letter from America 10.30 Newsguide 10.40 Book Choice 10.45 From the Weeklies 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Londres Midi 11.45 Mittagsmagazin 11.59 Weather 12.00 News 12.09pm News about Britain 12.15 Multitrack 3 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 Club 648 2.15 Personal View 2.30 Sportsworld 3.00 News 3.15 Sportsworld (cont) 4.00 News 4.09 News about Britain 12.15 Multitrack 3 12.45 Sports Roundup 1.00 Newshour 2.00 Club 648 2.15 Personal View 2.30 Sportsworld 3.00 News 3.15 Sportsworld (cont) 4.00 News 4.09 News about British 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 4.40 German Features 4.59 Travel 5.00 News 5.01 Sportsworld: final results 5.30 Londres Soir 6.14 BBC English 6.30 Haute Alduall 7.00 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News 8.09 Book Choice 8.15 Londres Demière 8.30 Europe This Weekend 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.15 Meridian 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 Words of Faith 11.10 Book Choice 11.15 A Jolly Good Show 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am The Ken Bruce Show 1.01 Play of the Week: Wild Strawberries 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Blind Justice 3.00 News 3.09 Words of Faith 3.15 Sportsworld (cont) 3.30 From Our Own Correspondent 3.50 Write On... 4.00 News 4.15 Oratory

SUNDAY

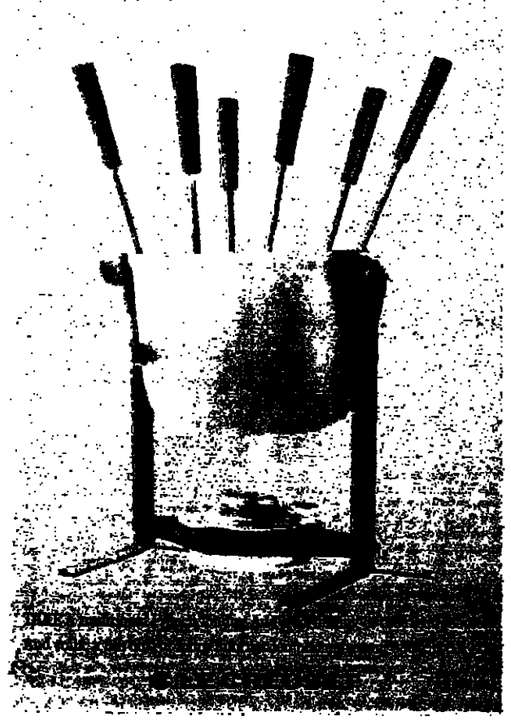
[redacted] 4.30am World Business Review 4.40 Travel and Weather 4.45 News and Press Review in German 5.00 German Features 5.24 News in German 5.30 Europe This Weekend 5.59 Weather 6.00 News 6.09 News about British 6.15 Letter from America 6.30 Londres Matin 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 From Our Own Correspondent 7.50 Write On... 8.00 News 8.09 Words of Faith 8.15 Music with Matthew 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Review 9.15 Short Story: The Irish Girl 9.30 Folk in Britain 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.01 Science in Action 10.30 In Praise of God 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Londres Midi 11.45 Mittagsmagazin 11.59 Weather 12.00 News 12.01pm Play of the Week: Wild Strawberries 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.01 It's Your World with Eastern European Leaders 3.00 News 3.15 Concert Hall 4.00 News 4.09 News about Britain 4.15 BBC English 4.30 News in German 4.40 German Features 4.59 Travel 5.00 News and Business Review 5.15 Club 648 5.30 Londres Soir 6.14 BBC English 6.29 News 6.30 News in German 6.40 German Features 7.54 News in German 8.00 News and Business Review 8.15 Londres Demière 8.30 Europe Tonight 9.00 Newshour 10.00 News 10.15 Meridian 10.45 Sports Roundup 11.00 News 11.05 World Business Review 11.15 Music with Matthew 12.00 Newsdesk 12.30am In Praise of God 1.00 News 1.01 Classic Concerts 1.45 Mastersingers 2.00 Newsdesk 2.30 Composer of the Month: Strauss 3.00 News 3.09 The Queens Message to the Commonwealth 3.15 Sports Roundup 3.30 Anything Goes 4.00 News 4.15 Taxi 4.30 The Week Ahead 4.40 Travel and Weather 4.45 News and Press Review in German 5.00 Morgenmagazin 5.20 Tips für Touristen 5.24 News in German 5.30 Europe Today 5.59 Weather 6.00 News 6.09 News about Britain 6.15 Recording of the Week 6.30 Londres Matin 6.59 Weather 7.00 Newsdesk 7.30 Blind Justice 8.00 News 8.09 The Queens Message to the Commonwealth 8.15 Health Matters 8.30 Anything Goes 9.00 News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Taxi 9.30 Andy Kershaw's World of Music 9.45 Sports Roundup 10.00 News 10.01 It's Your World with East European Leaders 10.30 The Vintage Chart Show 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Londres Midi 11.45 Mittagsmagazin 12.00 News

All times in GMT.

BBC1, BBC2, World Service TV on page 17

It isn't melted cheese that makes the perfect fondue.

It's molten iron.



and

Prodigy who fled the world

EXHIBITION

Helene Schjerfbeck
Ateneum, Helsinki

The retrospective collection of Helene Schjerfbeck's work — including some 200 paintings, drawings and watercolours — currently at the Ateneum in Helsinki offers its viewer an unusual chance to consider not just the creative evolution of one of Finland's finest artists but of modern art itself.

Born in 1862, Schjerfbeck was admitted to the Finnish Art Society's drawing school at the unprecedentedly early age of eleven. The next three decades of her life were spent more or less under its aegis: first as its pupil in Helsinki, next as its fellow abroad, finally as one of its instructors.

She abandoned Helsinki, the European art enclaves and the Society, however, in 1902, for the small town of Hyvinkää, and remained aloof from the art world until her death in 1946. If it had not been for her patron, the art dealer Gösta Stenman, the latter part of her nearly 75 years of work might have been overlooked.

Her pre-1902 work reflects the troubling effect on a youthful genius engaged in exploration of knowing that the eyes of Helsinki's art world were carefully trained upon it. Historical paintings, echoes of impressionism, symbolism and naturalism (despite its contemporary unacceptability) all find expression.

Behind these excursions, an original and prodigious talent is always in evidence; one which hangs back from adhering to any school but rather absorbs the single element it finds valuable in each, be it subject matter or use of colour. And, particularly, one ahead of its time in its constant urge to simplify.

Still, nothing quite prepares one for the shock of encountering the post-1902 paintings. Suddenly, Schjerfbeck's style becomes entirely her own, a simplicity so determined that in the case of many paintings, such as "Sailor" (1918), you can actually see the canvas peering out from under the oils, scraped bare by a knife bent on refinement.



Self portrait (1915): one of a haunting and unrelenting series

Numerous "portraits" of women and girls refuse to peronalise their subjects, treating them as shapes against moody, almost monochromatic backgrounds. Schjerfbeck, who called Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray* "a horrible and true book", felt it reprehensible to pursue a model's soul on canvas. It was a restraint, however, she did not extend to herself. A haunting series of self-portraits brings the artist from the self-confident flush of youth to an unrelenting vision of impending death: a gaping mouth, angular lines, hues of black.

One unfortunate result of Schjerfbeck's retreat from the world is the obscurity of her work outside Sweden and Finland. So it is good news that sections of this exhibition, after it closes on April 5, will go on to the Phillips Collection in Washington DC (May 16-August 30) and then to the National Academy of Design in New York (September 23-December 13)

ANNE ROSTON

Non-stop street theatre looks fishy

Jane Monahan reports from Madrid on a carnival ceremony immortalised by Goya

Most cities end carnival on Shrove Tuesday. Madrid is an exception. On Ash Wednesday, the following day, when Lent begins, the people of Madrid are still going strong.

On that day they celebrate a parody of all that Lent represents, in a unique anti-clerical procession called "The Burial of the Sardine", immortalised by Goya in a work that bears the same name and which hangs today in Madrid's Fine Arts Museum.

The irreligious procession dates back to the Middle Ages. But it has since become irrevocably linked to Goya — not least because it starts outside St Anthony's Church, where the entire cupola is covered with frescoes that he painted, and which also contains the Spanish artist's tomb.

In this spot, down by the Manzanares River bank, and slightly off the beaten track, a thousand or so men and women, led by the Guild of the Burial of the Sardine, congregate in black dress on Ash Wednesday evening, around a coffin, as if attending an important funeral.

But on closer inspection this is not a sad ceremony, but a piece of street theatre. Madrileños, the people of Madrid, excel at this. They do it most of the time. And on this occasion the women act their part, wailing, and with tears painted on their faces, in mockery of the penitence normally associated with Lent.

Meanwhile, the coffin contains a *papier mâché* sardine, a symbol of the fish that Roman Catholics used to be obliged to eat during the 40 days of abstinence between the end of Carnival and Easter Sunday.

The men carry banners with sardines and fish bones on them, and they drink frequently out of wineskins which are also in the shape of sardines.

Then the whole procession moves off, to the rhythm of a samba. Carnival cannot be buried, according to these Madrileños. It goes on all the year.

Goya, who was the painter *par excellence of Madrid's popular* events, illustrated another one in St Anthony's Church, where the frescoes he painted depict the Miracle of St Anthony of Padua, the church's patron, who in Spain has the reputation of being a *marrying* saint.

St Anthony's Day, on 12th June, is followed by a week of street dancing outside the Church, and of courtship.

Goya captured the atmosphere of the Spanish courtship fiesta vividly, in the women he painted on the cupola who are listening to St Anthony preaching, some of them attentively, some with indifference.

Their gestures are typical of the women of Madrid even today. One with plump arms is leaning on a balustrade. Another holds a fan. Set at a coquettish angle, there is a half-raised head wrapped in a black veil.

St Anthony looks completely overwhelmed. Evidently, nobody goes to the church in order to look at *him*.

Restoring this church, and the Goya frescoes in it, was a job undertaken by the Town Hall that was meant to be completed by the beginning of this year, Madrid's year as the Cultural Capital of Europe, 1992.

However, like many worthwhile enterprises, this one did not quite make it, though restricted visits to see the cupola only are expected to be allowed in three months, coinciding with the matchmaking on St Anthony's Day.